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Editor's letter

As we were putting together this issue, world leaders were gathered for the G7 summit in Cornwall. Much of the debate considered climate change and the increasing evidence of a climate emergency. We await tangible outcomes of the meeting, but in the meantime, we can all play our part in our homes and just as importantly in our gardens.

Key to us achieving more sustainable and environmentally aware gardens is a reset in our aesthetic expectations of what a garden should look like. In this issue, established designer Mary Keen reveals her new garden, just off the high street of a small town on the edge of the Cotswolds but gardened very much with a looser, wilder appeal. "I hope it's a place to be lost in, even though it is so small," explains Mary. Plants are chosen for their meadowy appeal, apple trees are key too and the once-orderly terrace is now a courtyard spilling over with plants offering colour and scent.

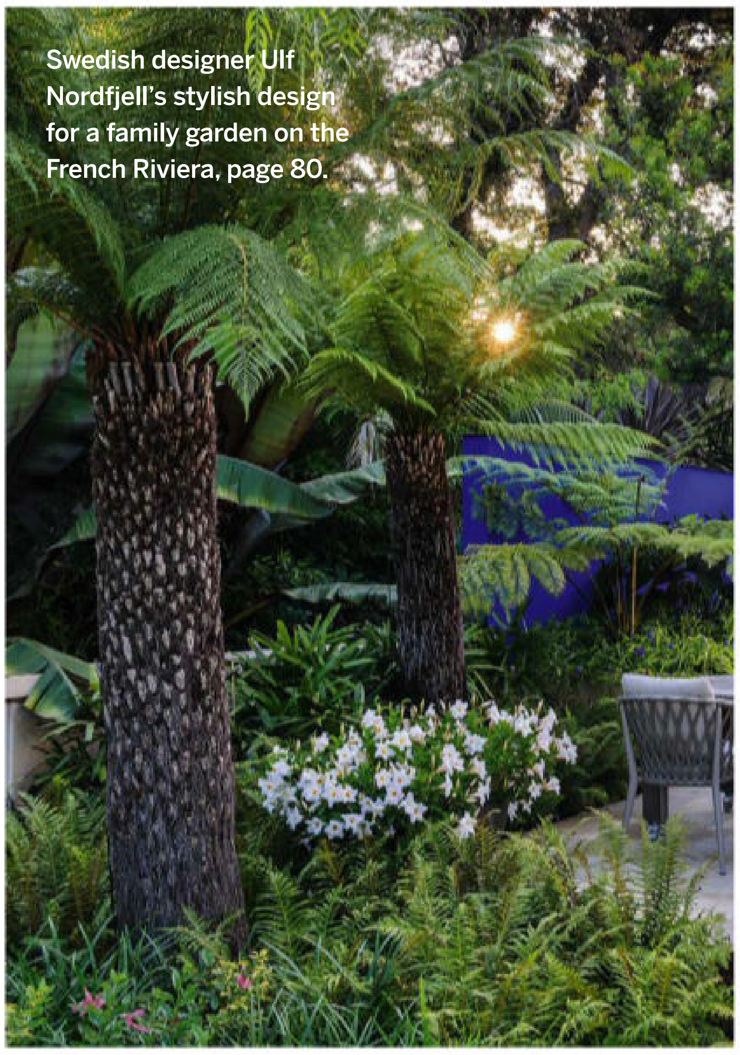
Likewise, a newly established Hampshire garden offers a lesson in how a new-build property can still feel established and settled and in harmony with its surroundings. Trees were key to the planting plan in what is an ornamental garden, yet with a very natural and sympathetic appeal.

Meanwhile in the South of France, designer Ulf Nordfjell has skilfully updated a garden with careful choices to give the planting longevity and sustainability, while still maintaining its distinct Riviera chic.

I hope you enjoy the issue,

Lucy Bellamy

LUCY BELLAMY, EDITOR



Swedish designer Ulf Nordfjell's stylish design for a family garden on the French Riviera, page 80.

JASON INGRAM

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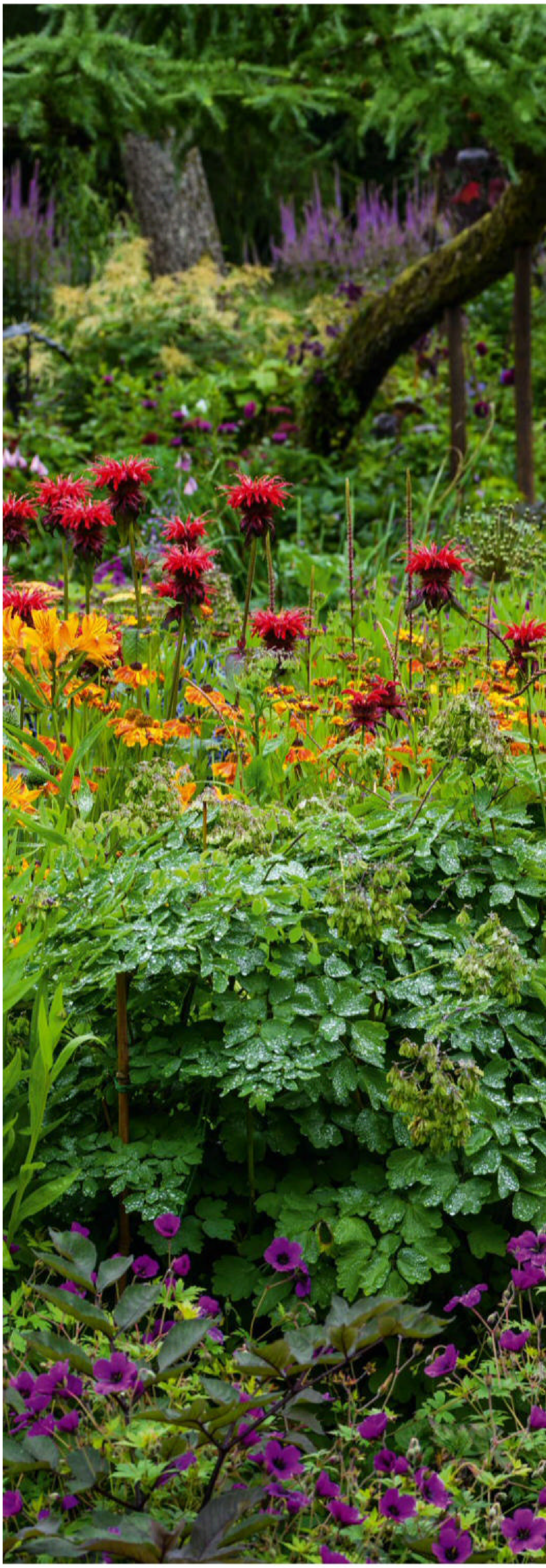

JASON INGRAM

The vibrant borders of June Blake's Irish garden provide a masterclass on combining plants for late summer, page 74.

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Dahlia 'Waltzing Mathilda' by Jason Ingram, page 34

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Ulf Nordfjell garden, page 80

EVENTS AND OFFERS

- Join Jimi Blake on a four-day tour of some of the most picturesque gardens around Dublin and the Wicklow Mountains – page 8
- Join the *Gardens Illustrated* reader day at Yeo Valley Organic Garden in Somerset to learn more about Tom Massey's design for his RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden – page 9
- Save money when you subscribe to the digital edition of *Gardens Illustrated* – page 32

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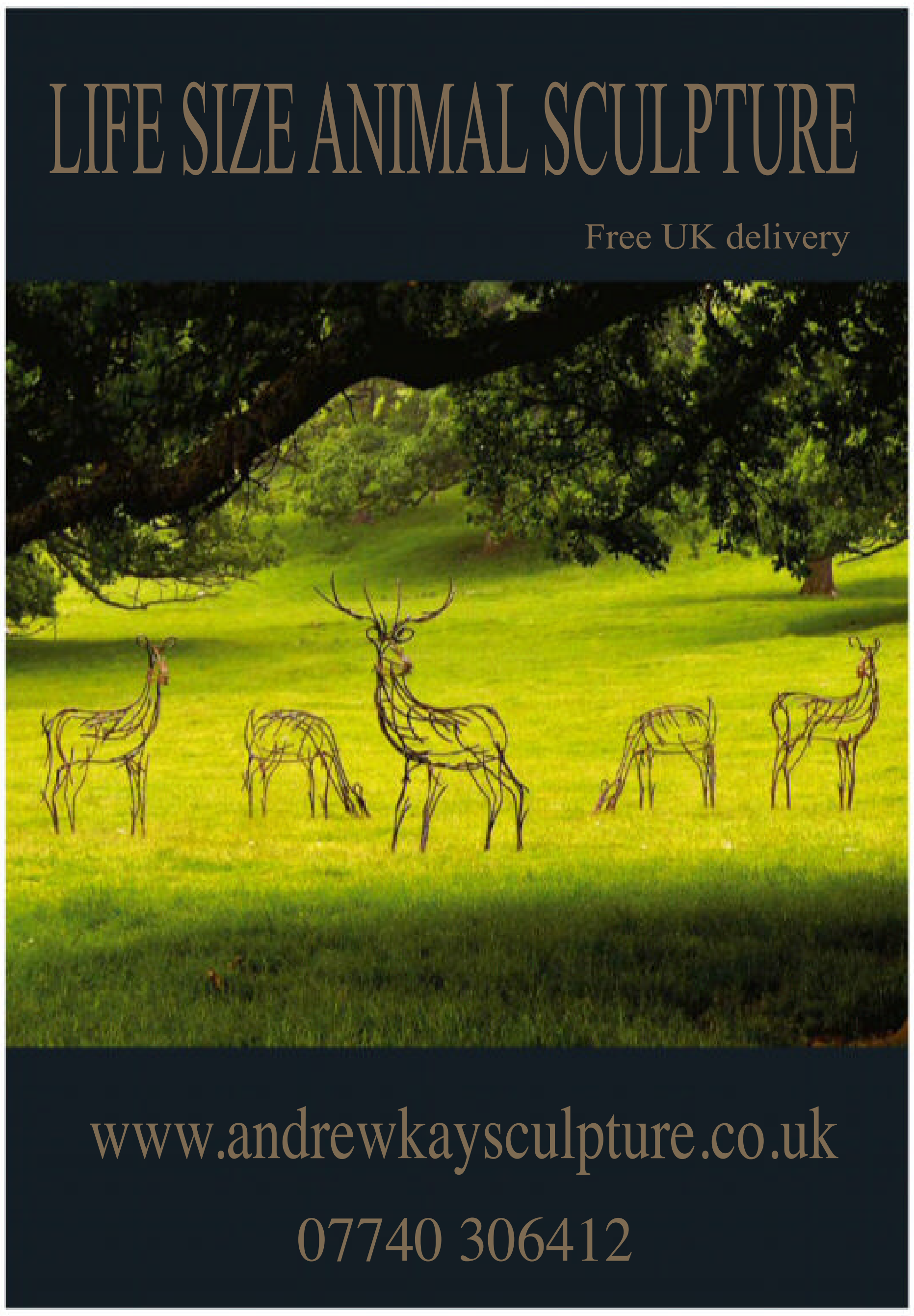

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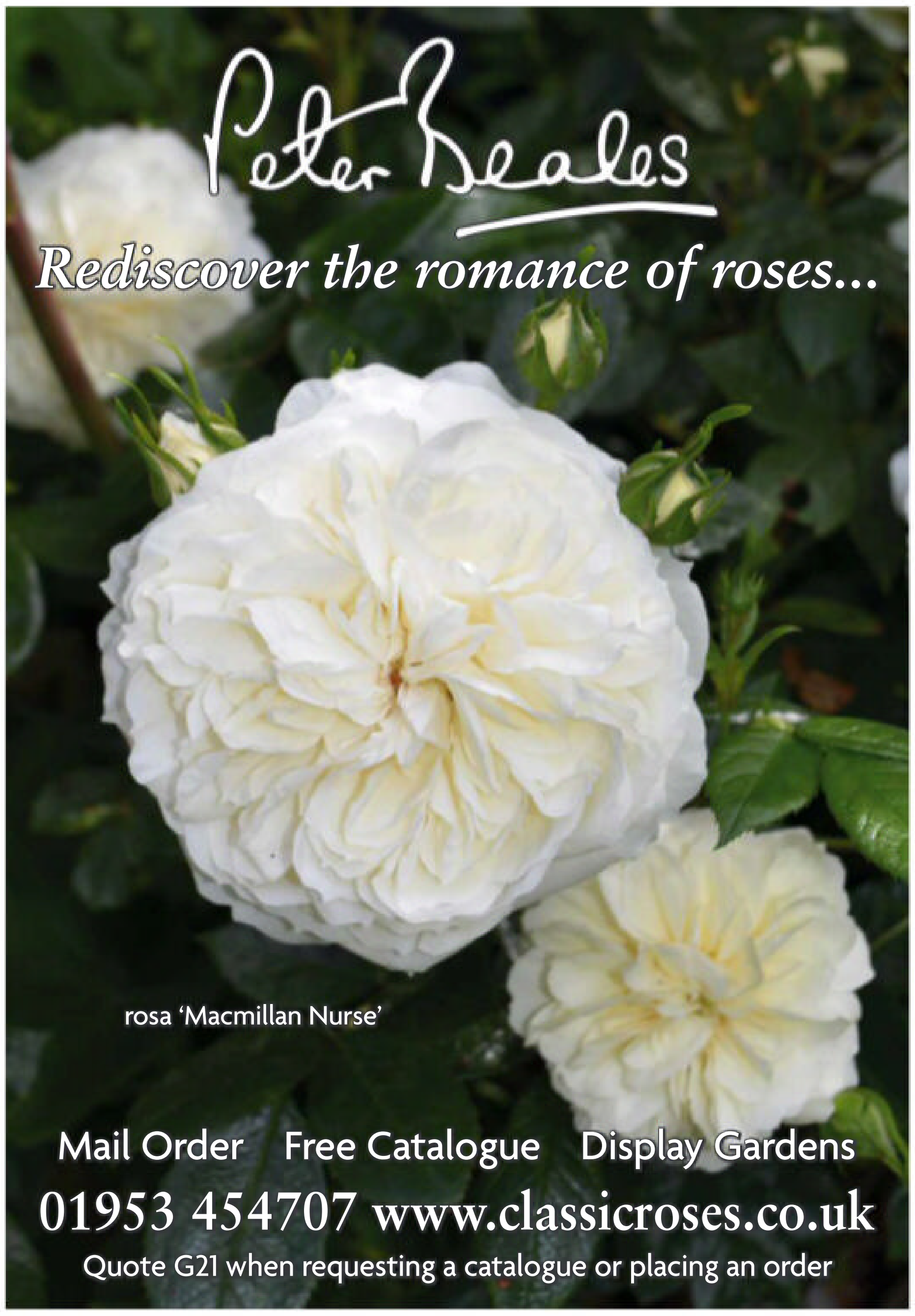

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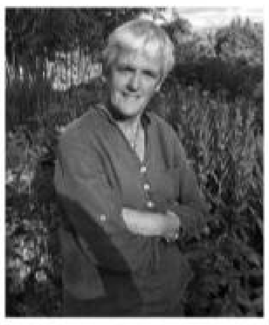
Non Morris
Non visits designer Mary Keen's new garden, page 34. *"Mary Keen's garden exerted a magnetic pull from my first glimpse of her radiant courtyard through the kitchen windows."*



June Blake
June offers exciting planting ideas, sharing the bold combinations she uses in her Irish garden, page 74. *"These are the plants and colours that fill my borders from late summer to autumn."*

Lisa Linder
Lisa photographs ceramicist Kaori Tatebayashi, page 94. *"It was such a treat to meet the hugely talented Kaori. Her ceramics are absolutely exquisite, and watching her work was so inspiring."*

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ANDREW MONTGOMERY

ANDREW MONTGOMERY

James Basson
James lives in the South of France where he runs Scape Design with his wife Helen, specialising in low-maintenance and dry gardens. He is a fervent advocate for creating sustainable landscapes. The winner of four Chelsea Gold medals, he was awarded Best in Show in 2017.

Fergus Garrett
Fergus was appointed head gardener at Great Dixter by Christopher Lloyd in 1993. He is passionate about passing on his knowledge through student programmes at Dixter and worldwide lectures. He was awarded an RHS Associate of Honour in 2008 and an RHS Victoria Medal of Honour in 2019.

Anna Pavord
Anna's books include her bestseller *The Tulip* and most recently *Landskipping*. For 30 years she was *The Independent*'s gardening correspondent. In 2000 the RHS awarded her the Veitch Memorial Medal. She lives and gardens in Dorset.

Dan Pearson
Dan is one of the UK's best-known garden designers, familiar to many through his gardening columns in the *Observer* magazine. Eight of his gardens, including the Tokachi Millennium Forest in Japan, have won awards and he was awarded Best in Show for his garden at Chelsea in 2015.

Sarah Price
Sarah is one of the UK's most sought-after garden designers who gained worldwide recognition for her designs for the 2012 London Olympic Park. She won Gold at Chelsea in 2012 and 2018, and was GMG Garden Columnist of the Year in 2016 for her design series in *Gardens Illustrated*.

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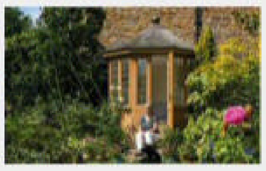
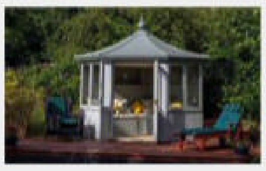


-The Baltimore Summerhouse



-The Newhaven Corner Summerhouse

-The Sun Ray Garden Room

Hunting Brook Gardens.

Jimi Blake is an expert gardener and plantsperson, whose own garden expresses a dynamic approach to planting.

Patthana.

Contemporary Irish Gardens

Join plantsperson extraordinaire Jimi Blake to explore some of the best gardens around Dublin and the Wicklow Mountains

Jimi Blake is the owner and enthusiastic gardener at **Hunting Brook Gardens** in County Wicklow. The garden is renowned for its modern and inventive plantings, and Jimi's plant choices always excite and delight. This is where you'll start your tour and Jimi will talk you through the garden's seasonal highlights and his approach to plant combinations. The tour continues with Jimi taking you on to his sister **June Blake**'s small but painterly garden in Tinode (see page 74), and then the garden of gardening doyenne **Helen Dillon**, who has recently transposed her ideas, developed over several decades, to a new and smaller space. You'll also discover the beautifully meditative garden **Patthana**, and the varied garden of **Ardán**, impressively located on the hilly peninsula overlooking Dublin Bay. Visits to these and further unique and considered, private and award-winning gardens allow guests to meet the owners, garner expert advice and drink in the beauty of contrasting gardens that take you right to the warm heart of the Irish gardening world. Jimi describes the trip as rolling from house party to house party, which, together with comfortable accommodation and excellent food, will make for a convivial trip full of garden experiences and discoveries.

7-10 SEPTEMBER 2021

EVENT DETAILS

The price per person, based on two people sharing is £2,950 (a single supplement of £250 is levied by the hotels).

The price includes: two nights dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast accommodation at The Marlfield Hotel, and one night dinner (with wine), bed & breakfast accommodation at The Dylan Hotel plus three lunches as stated in the itinerary, plus all transport and guiding from Dublin Airport and return flights from London Heathrow. If you wish to join the tour at Dublin Airport, we will deduct £100 per person from the price. The price does not include extras at the hotel, or travel insurance.

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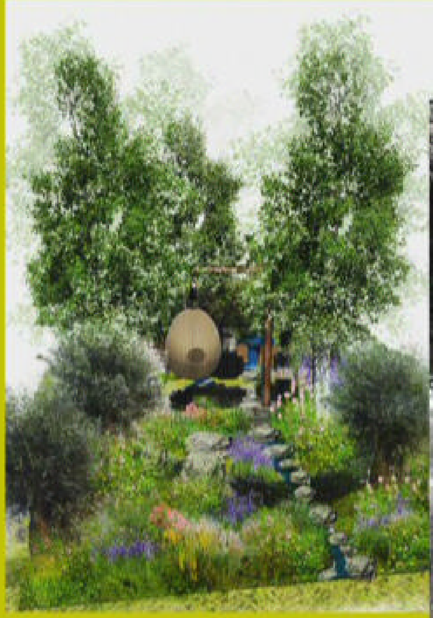

Sarah Mead is the creator of an extensive organic garden on the Yeo Valley family farm.

Tom Massey is the award-winning designer taking inspiration from Yeo Valley for the show garden at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show.

Plantsperson, writer and lecturer, **Marina Christopher**.

Tom Massey, Sarah Mead and Marina Christopher

discuss RHS Chelsea and organic planting

A beautiful patchwork of colour and texture, Yeo Valley Organic Garden is one of the UK's largest organic ornamental gardens certified by the Soil Association. It has been created by **Sarah Mead** over the past 30 years and occupies six-and-a-half acres around the family home on the Yeo Valley Organic farm.

It is also the inspiration behind Yeo Valley Organic's show garden at this year's much-anticipated RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Designed by award-winning garden designer **Tom Massey** in collaboration with Sarah Mead, the garden will offer a rich tapestry of flowering plants that encourage wildlife, support pollinators and nurture soil health. It features an open perennial meadow brimming with flowering plants, walls made of biochar logs that highlight the importance of keeping carbon in the soil, and a hand-crafted wooden hide by celebrated sculptor Tom Raffield.

Join us for our exclusive reader day to meet Sarah Mead and Tom Massey for a behind-the-scenes glimpse at the show garden's evolution and those highlights of Yeo Valley's garden that have inspired Tom's design. In addition to the tour and talk, we have arranged a special Q&A session to feature Sarah, Tom and plant expert **Marina Christopher**, who has grown many of the plants for the show garden, for you to ask your own questions about how to grow organically and with wildlife in mind.

THURSDAY 19 AUGUST 2021

EVENT DETAILS

Price £122 per person, including lunch and refreshments*.

Date Thursday 19 August 2021.
Venue Yeo Valley Organic Garden, Holt Farm, Bath Road, Blagdon, North Somerset BS40 7SQ.

Programme
11am Arrival – light refreshments outside
11.30am Garden tour in the company of Sarah Mead and Tom Massey
1pm Two-course lunch with a glass of wine in the garden tea room
2pm Chelsea experiences: Tom Massey talks about his times at Chelsea and looks to the Yeo Valley Organic 2021 garden
3pm Refreshment break
3.15pm Organic gardening Q&A with Sarah Mead, Tom Massey and Marina Christopher
4pm Tea and cake followed by an opportunity to shop for plants, flowers and Yeo Valley Organic products
5pm Departure

FOR BOOKING PLEASE VISIT

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DIG IN

What's happening, what's in flower and what to buy this month

CHRIS LACEY

Evenings to enjoy

This summer there's a chance to see the gardens of Hestercombe House and Gardens, near Taunton in Somerset, in a completely different light. For its Summer Lates season, Hestercombe will open every Wednesday evening between 5pm and 8pm until 29 September, allowing visitors to explore the historic house and its 50 acres of gardens after it would normally have closed to the public. As well as offering an after-hours glimpse of the remarkable gardens, laid out in the early 20th century by Gertrude Jekyll and Edwin Lutyens, the Summer Lates season is also an opportunity to enjoy some entertainment and outdoor food, including barbecues, wood-fired pizza and themed menus. Plus, on selected dates, Hestercombe's Edwardian punt will also be out on the Pear Pond for visitors to glide back in time. Adult admission is £6.90. To find out more and book tickets visit **hestercombe.com**

News

COMPILED BY KATIE BEALE

Pop of purple

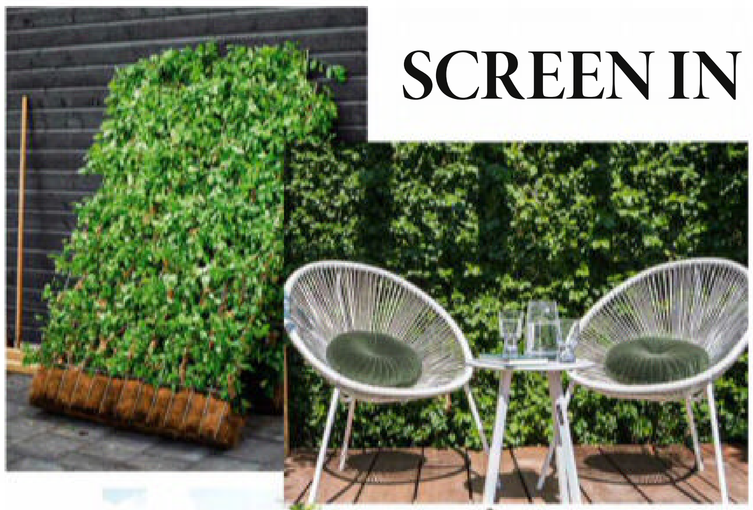
New for 2021, Clematis Duchess of Cornwall (= 'Evipo118') will make a stunning addition to your garden this summer. Growing to around 1.5m, its violet blue flowers deepen to a rich, opulent purple then soften to a near mid-blue with age. It's a fast-growing, repeat-flowering clematis that typically flowers from July to November, but can flower as early as May, producing fresh new foliage each spring following pruning in winter. This hardy new cultivar thrives in fertile, well-drained soil and partial shade, but will happily grow in any aspect and is well-suited for growing in a container, making it a great choice for a terrace or courtyard. Suppliers include ***crocus.co.uk***

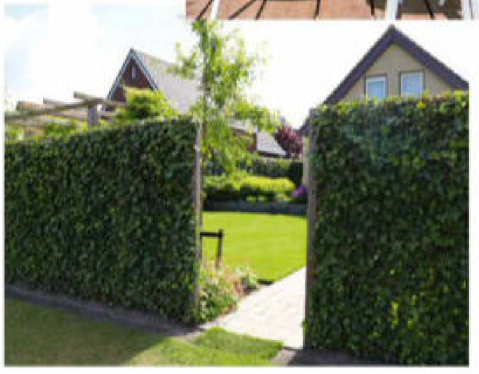
Community roots

"Learning to nurture something else helps people to learn to nurture themselves," says Matt Woodruff, horticulture skills manager for homelessness charity St Mungo's, explaining the success of the charity's horticultural therapy and training programme Putting Down Roots. Started 21 years ago, the programme offers vocational horticulture training to people experiencing homelessness, helping them gain both confidence and employment skills. Funded in part by Jo Malone London and Barratt Developments, it now has training gardens in Bristol and London with a new garden planned in Leicester. To find out more visit **mungos.org**

ST MUNGOS

SCREEN IN STYLE





Over the past year pedestrianised streets have popped up across the UK, allowing more cafés and restaurants to offer street dining and introducing more of us to the idea of living screens. These provide a green alternative to fencing and if you're thinking they would be an ideal solution for your garden then it's good to know that Mobilane has a range available in the UK in a variety of sizes and plant choices, including ivy and hornbeam. All are supplied fully grown in biodegradable containers with a standard width of 1.2m and come in heights of one to three metres, depending on the chosen plant. Prices start at around £170. To find your nearest stockist visit **mobilane.com/en**

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Nigel & Mandy Keene *Basingstoke*

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Tulips under threat

Climate change is causing most species of wild tulip to lose their natural habitat at a frighteningly rapid rate, according to new research from the University of Cambridge. The detailed study, conducted in Central Asia, was the first to assess the impact of climate change on tulips and warns that a number of species will see their suitable habitat shift to higher altitudes, and many could have no suitable habitat at all by 2050. One of the report's authors, Brett Wilson, believes that climate change is also likely to alter the growth and flowering habits of garden tulips. All tulips rely on seasonal triggers to initiate their short growing season and struggle with waterlogged soil, so changes in temperature and rainfall may have serious negative effects on yield and quality of cultivated flowers. **botanic.cam.ac.uk**

Clockwise from above *Tulipa ostrowskiana*; *Tulipa dasystemon*; Ormon Sultangaziev and Professor Georgy Lazkov sampling a population of *Tulipa greigii* in Kyrgyzstan.

BRETT WILSON

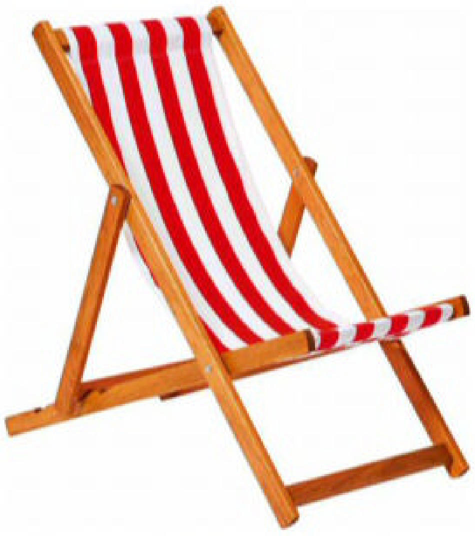
FIRE UP

Furniture maker Oxenwood has introduced a new range of stylish outdoor kitchens. The standard model comes complete with a 91cm outdoor gas grill from Sub-Zero & Wolf, but the modular units can be customised with bespoke features such as a pizza oven or with with a choice of worktops. **oxenwood.co.uk**

CREATE A BUTTERFLY HAVEN

Non-profit wildflower specialist Seedball has a new wildflower mix tailored to welcoming butterflies into your garden. Perfect if you're planning on taking part in the annual Butterfly Conservation's Big Count. The Butterfly Mix, is a special blend of flowers such as forget-me-not, cornflower and musk mallow (pictured) in the form of peat-free balls meaning that you can enjoy beautiful flowers and help do your bit by encouraging biodiversity at home. The mix costs £6 a tin at **seedball.co.uk**

3 FOR THE GARDEN… *DECK CHAIRS*



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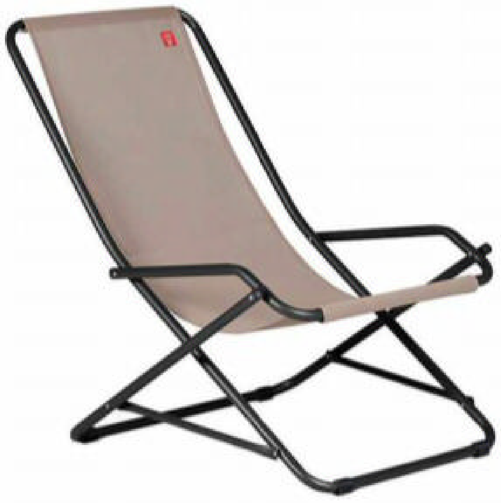

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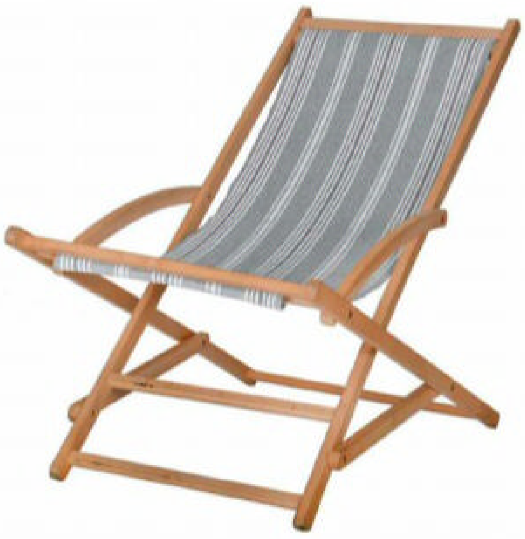
£62.50, John Lewis,
0345 610 0359, johnlewis.com



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Striped Rocking Deck Chair, Earl Grey,
£90, Garden Trading,
01993 845559, gardentrading.co.uk

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COMPILED BY KATIE BEALE AND ANNIE GATTI

❶ Eythrope Walled Garden Tour

Take a peek inside the four-acre walled garden at Eythrope, part of the Rothschild estate at Waddesdon Manor. Visits to this productive garden, which includes glasshouses and an orchard, are by guided tour only and last approximately 90 minutes. Every Wednesday until 31 October. £50, includes lunch and admission to Waddesdon. Waddesdon Manor, Waddesdon, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire HP18 0JH. Tel 01296 820414, waddesdon.org.uk

❷ RHS Flower Show Tatton Park

Celebrate gardens and growing as the RHS Flower Show Tatton Park makes a welcome return. A Summer of Love is the theme for this year's floral extravaganza, which includes a riot of summer colour in the Floral Marquees, talks and demonstrations, plenty of shopping opportunities and inspirational show gardens, including five from designers under 30 – one of whom will be crowned this year's RHS Young Designer of the Year. 21-25 July, 10am-5pm. From £35.75. Tel 0344 338 7501, rhs.org.uk/tattonpark

❸ Adrian Sassoon Exhibition

Adrian Sassoon, dealer in contemporary ceramics and glass, is staging a panorama of new works by his celebrated roster of artists within the interiors and gardens of Parham House in the South Downs, which can also be viewed online. 21 July – 31 August, 12-5pm. Free with house admission of £10, pre-booking essential. Parham House & Gardens, Pulborough, West Sussex RH20 4HS. Tel 01903 742021. parhaminsussex.co.uk

❹ Growing Vegetables in Autumn and Winter

Make the most of your vegetable plot by learning how to grow vegetables in autumn for harvesting throughout winter and spring on this one-day course at RHS Garden Harlow Carr. The course will cover a wide range of hardy crops for growing in open ground, under cloches or in greenhouses, with advice on when to sow, how to protect your crops, as well as tried-and-tested ways of storing surplus vegetables. 23 July, 10am-4pm. £60. RHS Garden Harlow Carr, Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire HG3 1QB. Tel 01423 565418, rhs.org.uk/gardens/harlow-carr

❺ Organic Paint & Inks

Join artist Nabil Ali for this online course from Cambridge Botanic Garden on how to make paint and ink using plants from your garden and other organic ingredients. The paint-making processes are inspired by historical key technical manuscripts and classical sources. 23 July, 10am-1pm. £25. Tel 01223 336265, botanic.cam.ac.uk

❻ Willow Hearts and Flowers

Learn the basic skills needed to create willow hearts and flowers on this half-day course with weaver Victoria Conner. Incudes all tools and materials and refreshments. 25 July, 10am-1pm. £45. The Willow Barn, Blakeston Hall, Blakeston Lane, Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham TS21 3LQ. craftcourses.com

❼ Newbury Garden Show

Browse plants and a host of garden products at this two-day garden show. 31 July to 1 August, 10am-5pm. From £7.50, pre-booking essential. Newbury Showground, Priors Court, Hermitage, Thatcham, Berkshire RG18 9QZ. Tel 0333 242 7912, aztecevents.co.uk

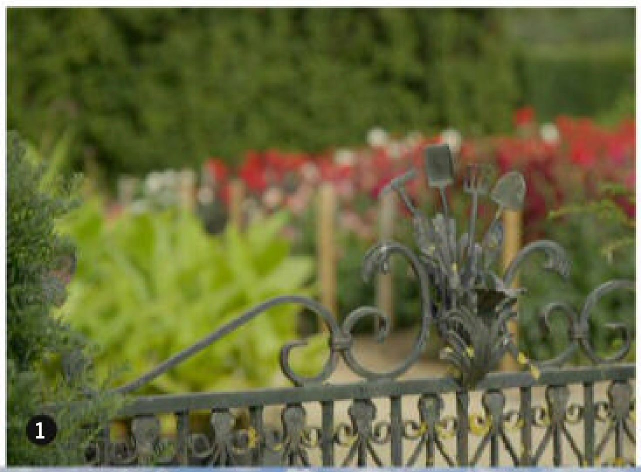
❽ Quinton Old Rectory

Explore this three-acre rectory garden on one of its rare open afternoons. Designed by Anoushka Feiler, the garden, offers living walls and abstract installations embedded in the 18th-century formal elements such as parterres, allée and a kitchen garden. Numbers are strictly limited, and pre-booking is essential. 17 August, 1pm-3.30pm. £10. Old Rectory, Preston Deanery Road, Quinton, Northamptonshire NN7 2ED. garden4good.co.uk

❾ BBC *Gardeners' World* Live 2021 Special Edition

Book now for the BBC *Gardeners' World* Live event at the NEC in Birmingham. This special outdoor event includes an exciting line-up of show gardens, a floral marquee, plants to buy, as well as the BBC *Good Food* Market and *Gardeners' World* presenters Monty Don, Carol Klein and Adam Frost will be sharing ideas about how we can all do our bit for sustainability in our gardens. 26-29 August. 8.15am-6pm (5pm, Sunday). £20. NEC, North Avenue, Marston Green, Birmingham B40 1NT. gardenersworld.com

All information is correct at time of going to press, but may be subject to change.
Tickets for most events will be limited to ensure social distancing and must be booked in advance.
Please be sure to check all opening times and advice on any local travel restrictions before travelling.



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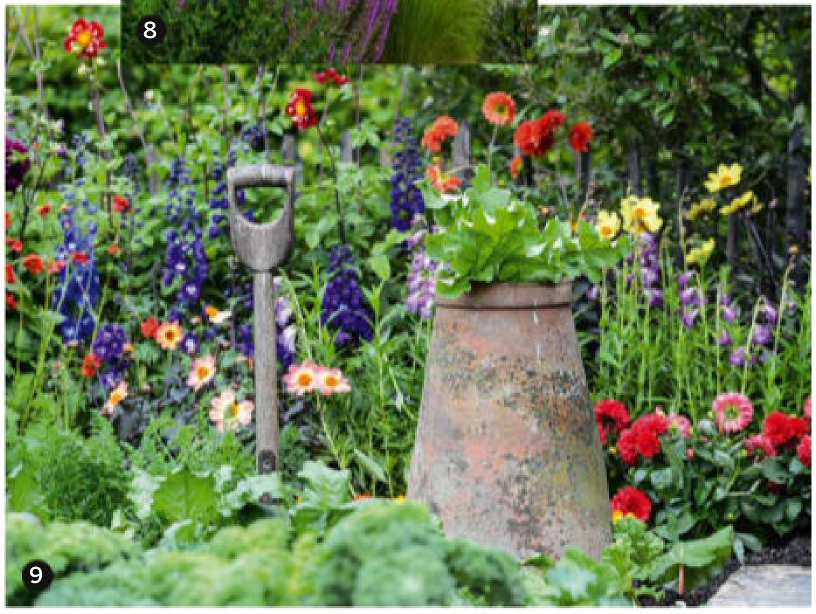

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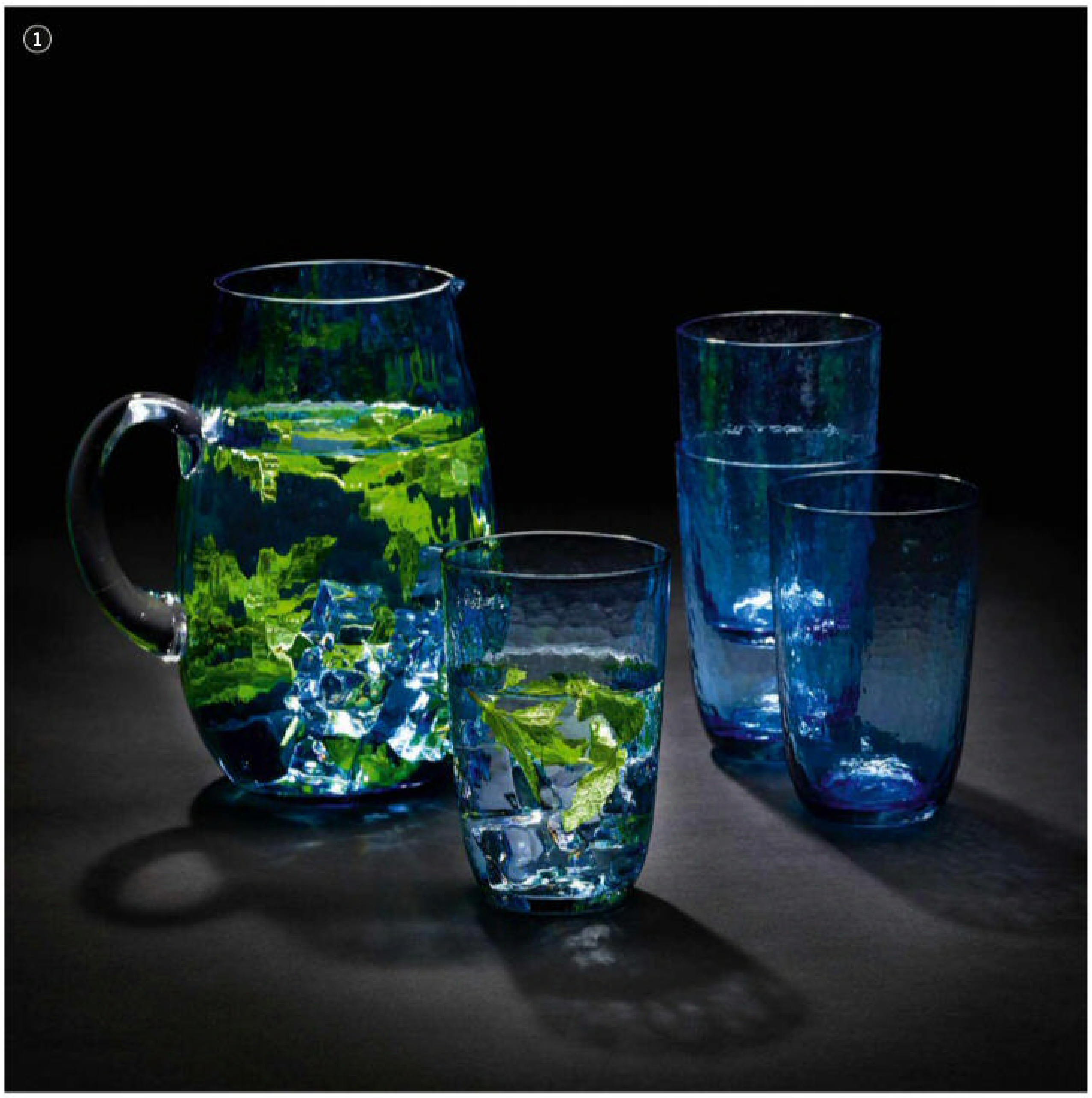

MAIN IMAGES DAVE CAUDERY

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VINE TOMATO
&
BLACK PEPPER

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1. Blue Breeze Glassware Pitcher, £39; **Blue Breeze Glassware Tall Tumblers Set of 4,** £55, both 01872 223220, nordichouse.co.uk **2. Capri Herringbone Blanket,** 2.3x1.3m, £45, 01548 431902, weavergreen.com **3. Vine Tomato + Black Pepper Candle,** £37, 07817 725640, emmaalington.co.uk **4. Carbonised Ash Wood Salad Server Hands,** £18, 0345 610 0336, johnlewis.com **5. Navy Hammam Cushion,** 45x45cm, £45, 01548 431902, weavergreen.com **6. Endless Circular Dining Table,** teak, £2,270, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk **7. Endless Dining Armchair,** teak/dark grey, £1,025, 0345 605 2505, worm.co.uk

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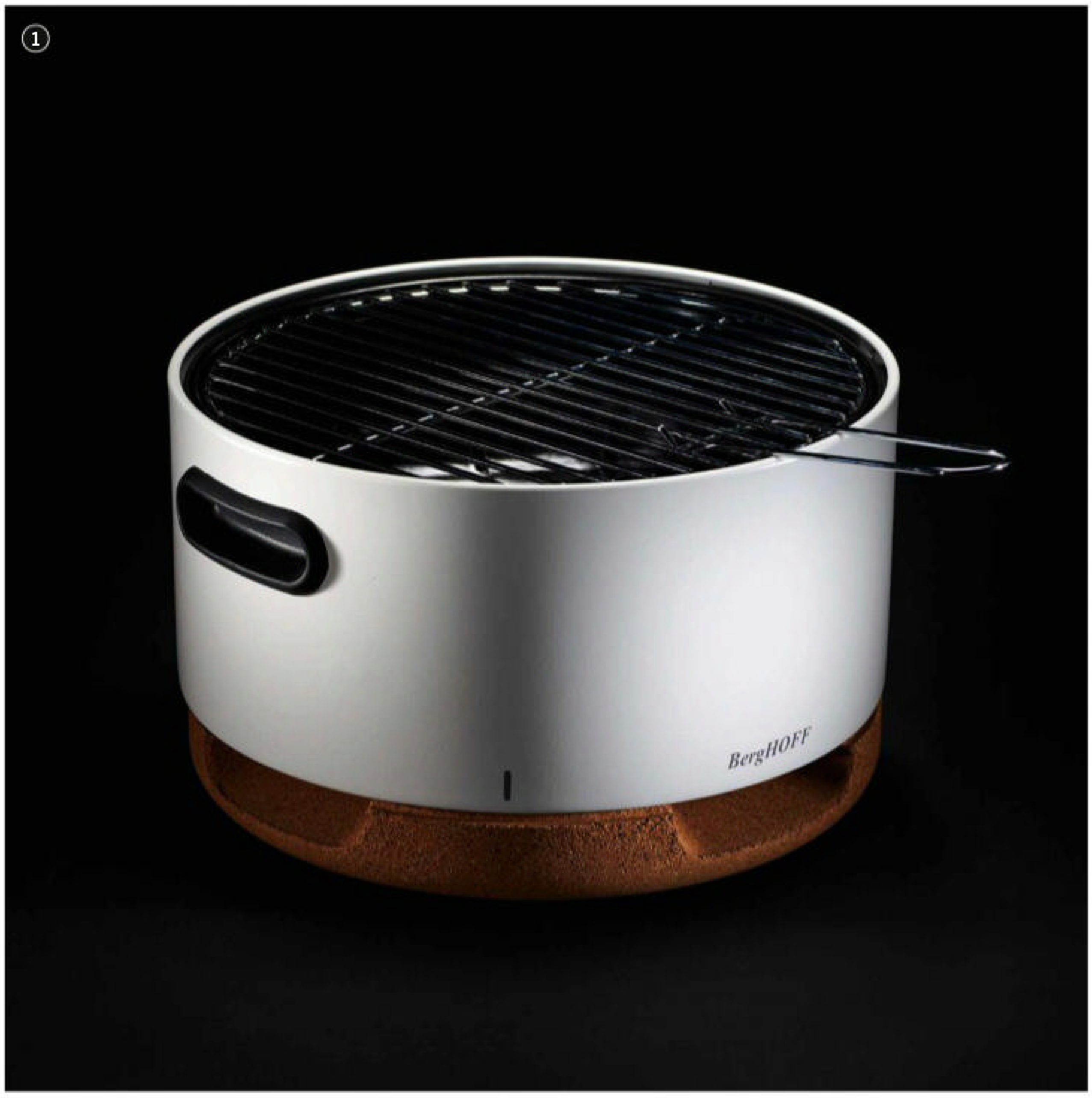

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1. **BergHOFF Portable Table Top BBQ,** white, 22x35cm, £149, 0800 587 7645, amara.com 2. **Ecru Fabric and Aluminium Garden Pergola,** 280x303cm, £865, 0808 234 2172, maisonsdumonde.com 3. **Oak Thistle Serving Board,** 30x20cm, £36, 01592 654222, justslate.co.uk 4. **Karala Wine Glasses,** set of 4, £39.95, 0333 240 0155, nkuku.com 5. **Habitat 2 Seater Bamboo Bar Bistro Set,** £200, 0345 640 2020, habitat.co.uk 6. **Wheeled Metal Outdoor Cool Box,** black, 87x78cm, £220, 0808 234 2172, maisonsdumonde.com 7. **Blue Outdoor Rug with White Graphic Print,** 1.8x2.7m, £66, 0808 234 2172, maisonsdumonde.com 8. **Outdoor Rechargeable LED Lamp,** £79, 01872 223220, nordichouse.co.uk

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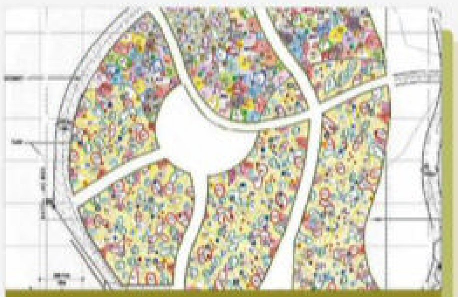

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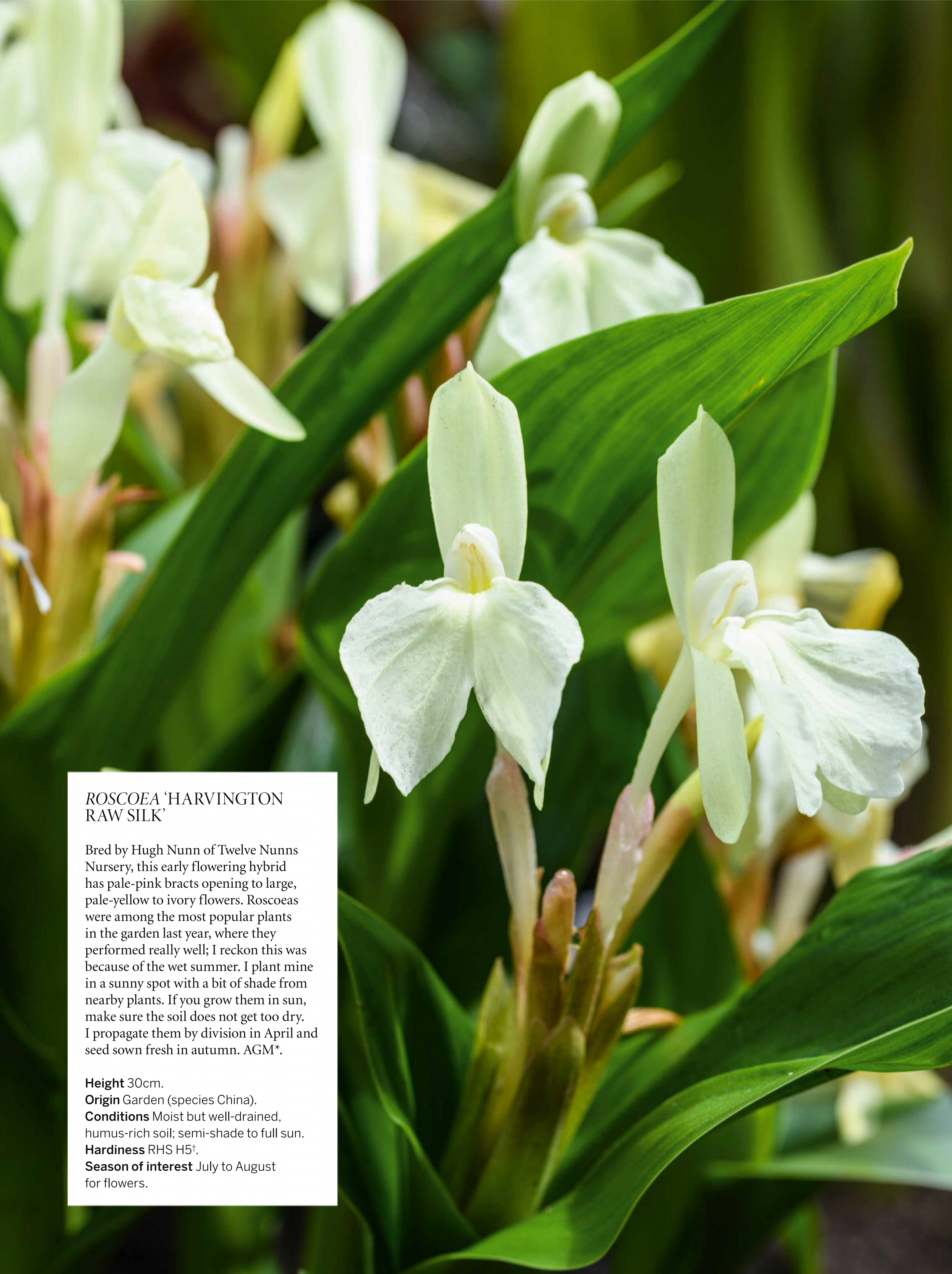


ROSCOEA ‘HARVINGTON RAW SILK’

Bred by Hugh Nunn of Twelve Nunns Nursery, this early flowering hybrid has pale-pink bracts opening to large, pale-yellow to ivory flowers. Roscoeas were among the most popular plants in the garden last year, where they performed really well; I reckon this was because of the wet summer. I plant mine in a sunny spot with a bit of shade from nearby plants. If you grow them in sun, make sure the soil does not get too dry. I propagate them by division in April and seed sown fresh in autumn. AGM*.

Height 30cm.
Origin Garden (species China).
Conditions Moist but well-drained, humus-rich soil; semi-shade to full sun.
Hardiness RHS H5[†].
Season of interest July to August for flowers.

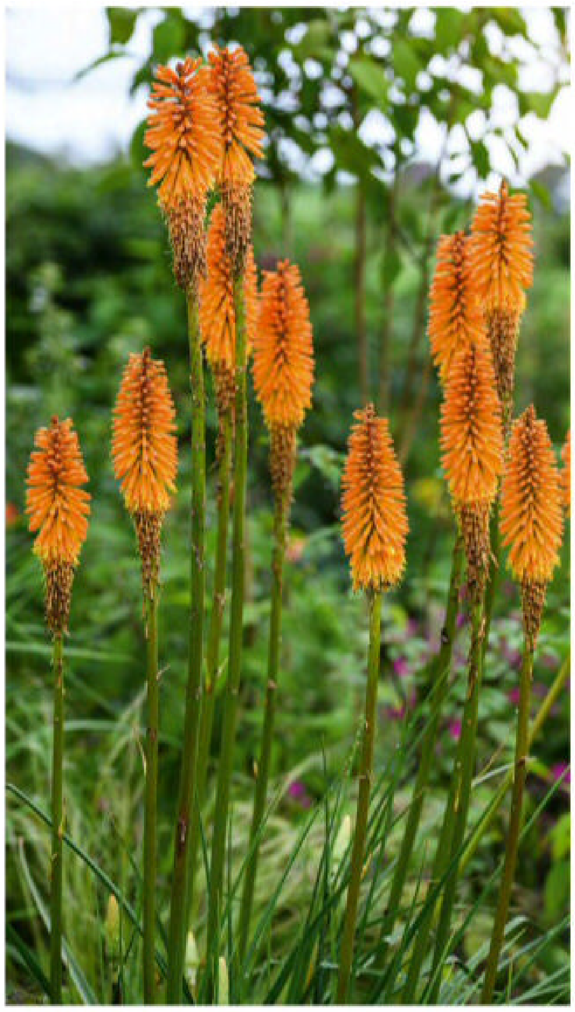
CHARLIE HOPKINSON

July plants

As temperatures rise, hot colours begin to emerge in Jimi's borders, cooled by his more tender, exotic foliage plants, set free from their polytunnels to bask in the summer sun

WORDS **JIMI BLAKE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

Jimi Blake is the owner and creator of Hunting Brook Gardens. **huntingbrook.com**



KNIPHOFIA 'GLADNESS'

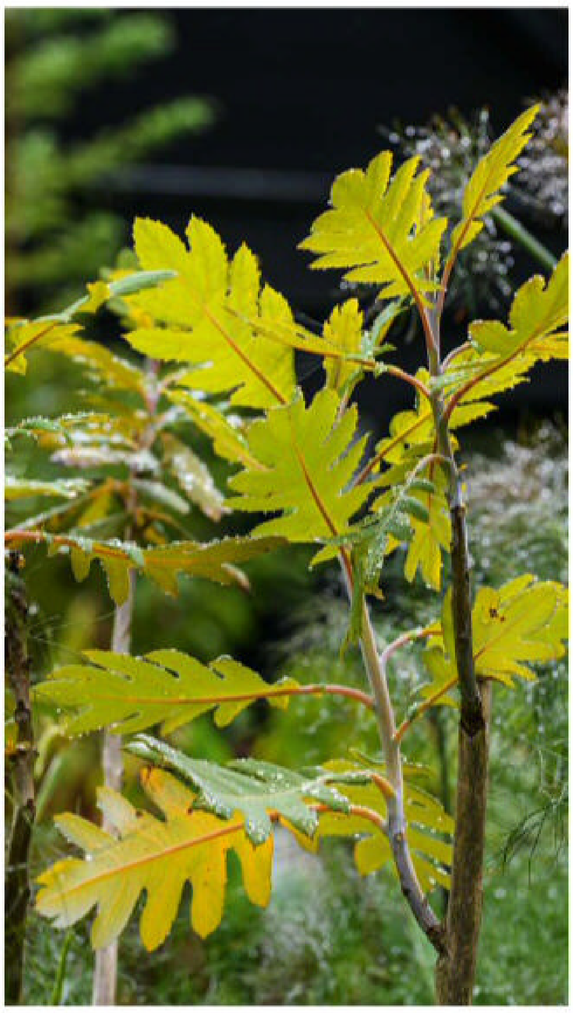
I grow many different kniphofias and this is one of the best as it has an abundance of flowers over a long period. Dark-apricot buds open to vibrant orange on sturdy, bronze stems, well above its neat foliage. I repeat it through one of my borders for its strong, coloured spires that lead the eye from one end of the border to the other. This kniphofia flowers in June and July and sometimes into August. If the foliage is scruffy in spring, I pull out last year's leaves to make space for the new growth. Propagate by division in spring.

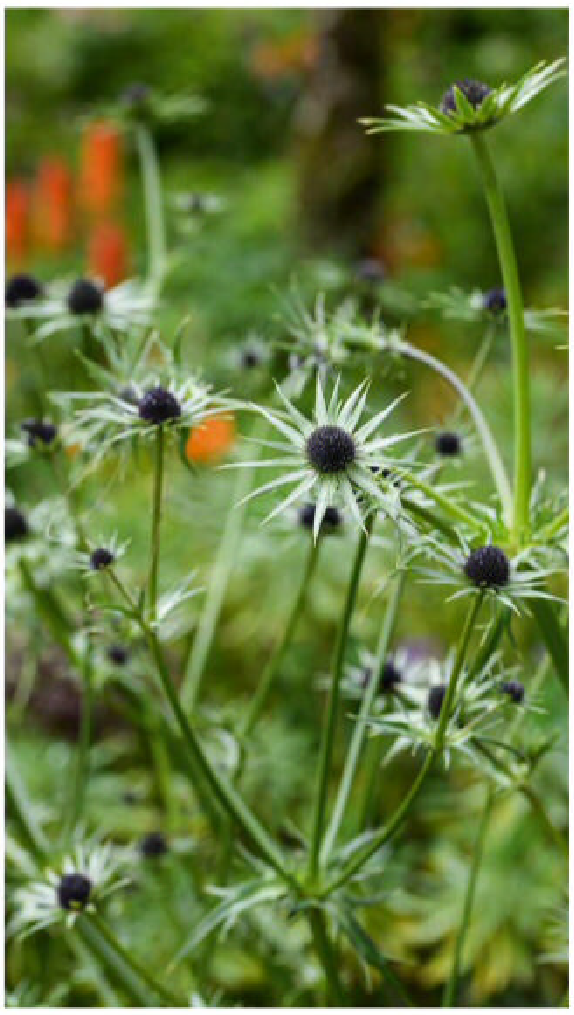
Height 1-1.5m.
Origin Garden (species South Africa).
Conditions Moist and deep but well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest June to July for flowers.

BOCCONIA FRUTESCENS

A few years ago I was exploring Costa Rica and ended up in the Corcovado National Park near the Panama border. I decided to drive up into the mountains in search of plants I recognised. I remember coming round a corner and suddenly the hillside was covered in huge dahlias and *Bocconia frutescens*; it was a sight I will never forget. *Bocconia frutescens* is a woody member of the poppy family and similar to the perennial *Macleaya*. I grow this funky foliage plant for its large, silvery-blue, oak-like leaves in my exotic planting designs. I managed to grow it both from seed and cuttings last year.

Height 1-1.5m.
Origin Central and South America, Mexico and the West Indies.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3.
Season of interest Year round for foliage.





ERYNGIUM GUATEMALENSE

This is one of the best new perennials that I have trialled at Hunting Brook in recent years. It has sturdy stems with tight, black umbel flowers growing out of a basal rosette of extremely spiny leaves. Even though it is native to Guatemala, it is actually hardy with me, dying back in winter and re-emerging in spring. Its appearance can vary somewhat when grown from seed and my *Eryngium guatemalense* is quite different from my sister June's. I have propagated it by seed sown fresh in autumn and have about 80 plants to weave through the Sand Garden this summer.

Height 1.75m.
Origin Guatemala.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H4.
Season of interest Year round (summer for flowers; winter for seedheads).

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. Hardiness ratings given where available.

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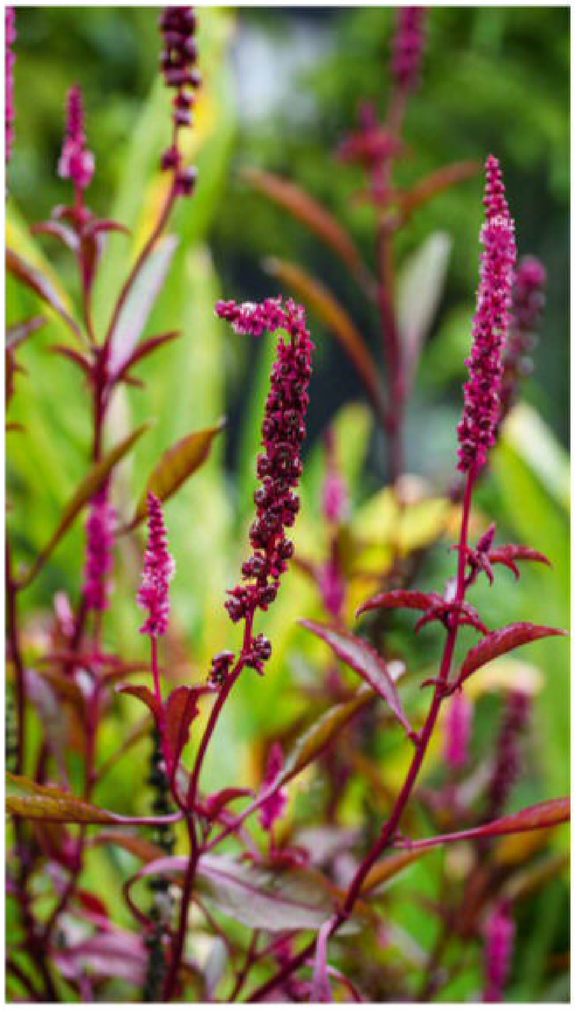


PHYTOLACCA ICOSANDRA

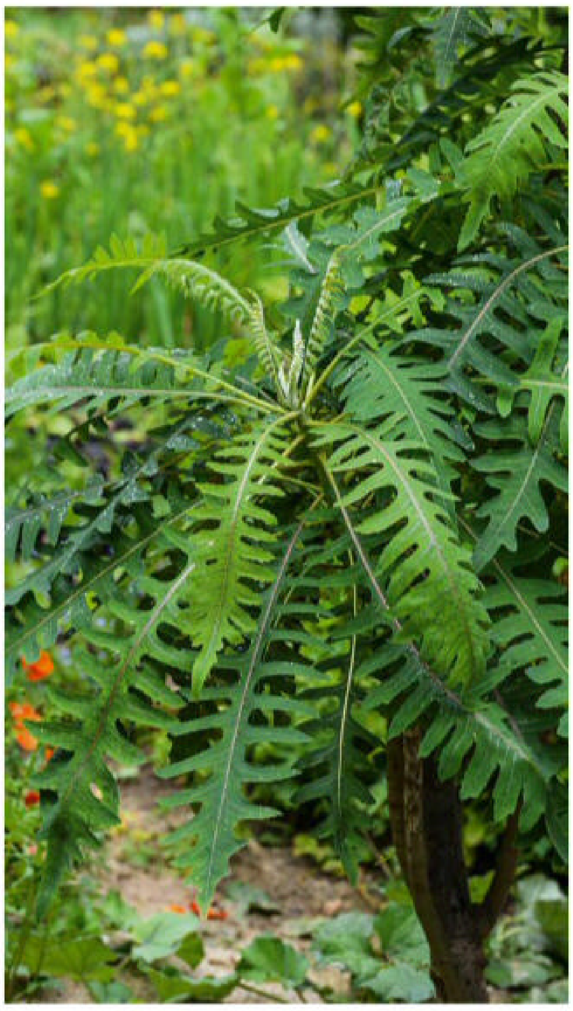
I have grown *Phytolacca americana* for many years but *Phytolacca icosandra* is new to me. Its flower spikes, held on red stems, are thinner and a brighter pink than *Phytolacca americana*, and are followed by purple-black berries. I grew it from seed last year and used it in my exotic planting designs by combining it with the dramatic, architectural leaves of *Brassaiopsis mitis* and various scheffleras. This year I have it woven through a border with 200 new dahlias. It can be considered a spreader in warmer climates but it's certainly not for me. I propagate it by seed sown in spring with some bottom heat.

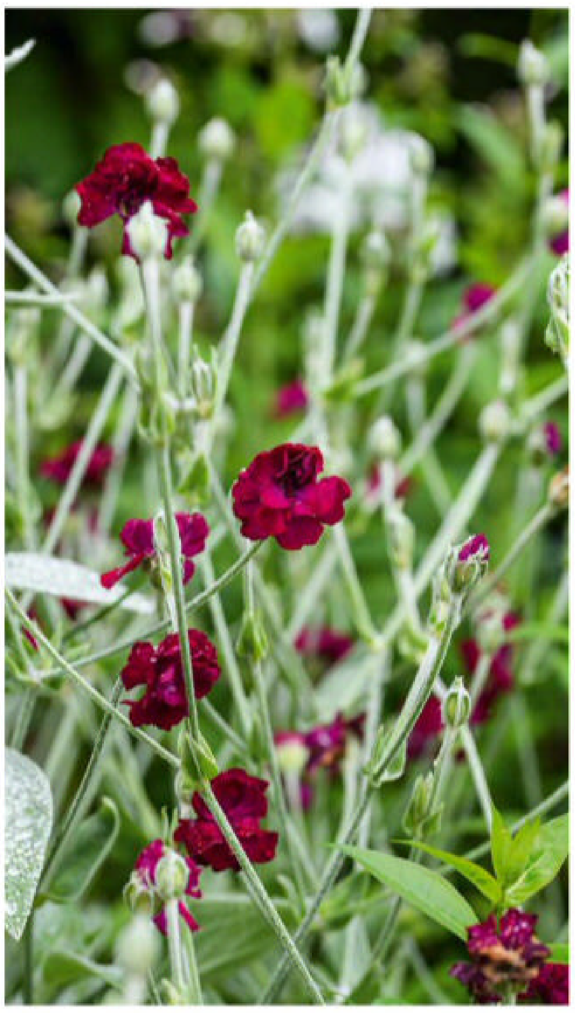
Height 2m.
Origin Tropical Central and South America.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H7.
Season of interest Summer.

SONCHUS PALMENSIS

I have spent some time hiking in the Canary Islands and its native flora has always fascinated me, especially these whacky tree dandelions, which I grow for their amazing foliage and sprays of yellow, dandelion-like flowers. I grow them from seed and plant them out for the summer months. This particular form is endemic to the small island of La Palma where my sister June has seen it grow. This one has finely feathered leaves with silver new growth, and develops into a multi-stemmed shrub or small tree. It has a very light canopy, which allows me to plant it with aeoniums, a combination you would see in the Canary Islands.

Height 1.5m.
Origin La Palma in the Canary Islands.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H2.
Season of interest Year round.





LYCHNIS CORONARIA GARDENERS' WORLD (= 'BLYCH')

Although this was discovered by former *Gardeners' World* presenter Geoff Hamilton more than 30 years ago, it has only become widely available in recent years. It has deep-magenta, double flowers on silver stems growing out of a rosette of velvety-silver leaves. I plant it en masse with *Geum* 'Totally Tangerine' and *Lychnis* 'Hill Grounds'. Gardeners' World follows on flowering from 'Hill Grounds', providing a display of flowers in July and August. It is sterile with no seed, so I propagate it by basal cuttings in spring.

Height 60cm.
Origin Garden (species southeast Europe).
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H6.
Season of interest July and August for flowers.

Places to visit

Recommended places to see seasonal plants at their best

Be sure to check opening times and travel restrictions. Many garden visits will need to be pre booked.

I'm often asked what is my favourite garden and I always answer **Chanticleer Garden** in Pennsylvania, USA. When international travel once again becomes a possibility I would recommend everyone to visit. I was lucky enough to work there for a month 18 years ago in the early days of Hunting Brook. I worked with each gardener for a few days, learning their style of planting. The planting styles of Jonathan Wright, Dan Benarcik and Lisa Roper were all a huge inspiration to me. 786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19087, USA. Tel +1 610 687 4163, chanticleergarden.org

One garden I'm able to visit regardless of international travel requirements is the very beautiful and plant-packed **Coosheen Garden** on the Cork Estuary. It's the garden of the highly skilled plantswoman Hester Forde, who is one of the most knowledgeable gardeners in Ireland and, like myself, a complete plant obsessive. Hester is well known to many for her snowdrop collections but her garden is even more spectacular in summer. She does layered and succession planting to perfection and still manages to keep building up one of the most interesting plant collections in the country. Coosheen Garden, 15 Johnstown Park, Glounthaune, Co Cork, Ireland T45 CC42. Tel +353 (0)86 865 4972, hesterfordegarden.com

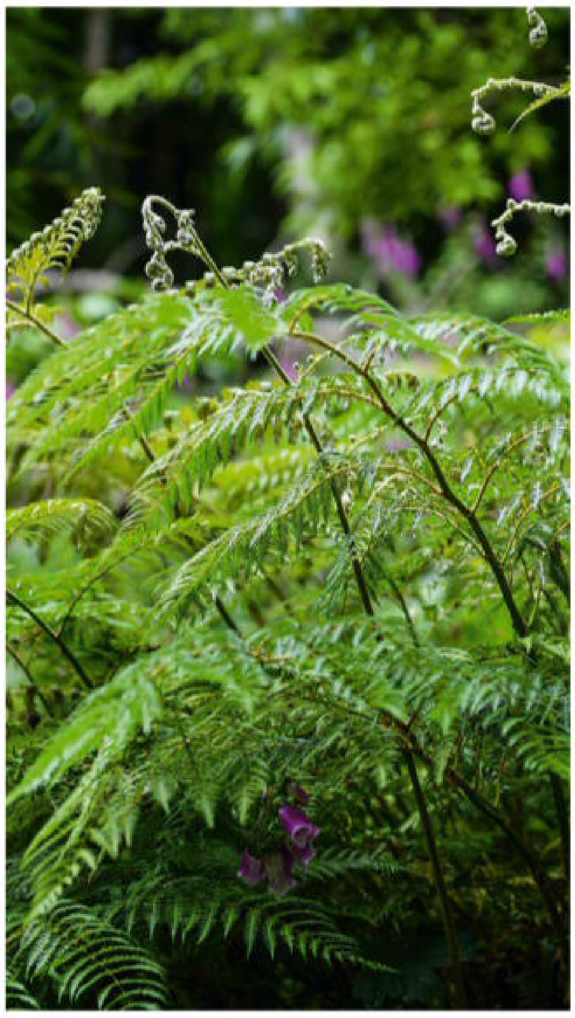
I had the pleasure recently of teaching a day course in **Wildegoose Nursery** owned by Jack

▷

LOPHOSORIA QUADRIPINNATA

I first saw this spectacular fern growing in Kells Bay Gardens in southwest Ireland, which houses the largest collection of tree ferns in the northern hemisphere. It has huge fronds with silvery, glaucous-blue undersides. I love the dramatic unfurling of the new, silver, furry fronds in spring and summer. I've planted it along the path in the bottom of the valley where it is enjoying the moist, rich soil from years of leaf mould from the overhanging beech trees. Once it's happy, it is quick to bulk up and easy to propagate by division in spring or by spores sown fresh in the autumn.

Height 2.5-3m.
Origin Central and South America.
Conditions Moist, humus-rich soil; semi-shade.
Hardiness RHS H3.
Season of interest Year round.



ROLDANA CRISTOBALENSIS

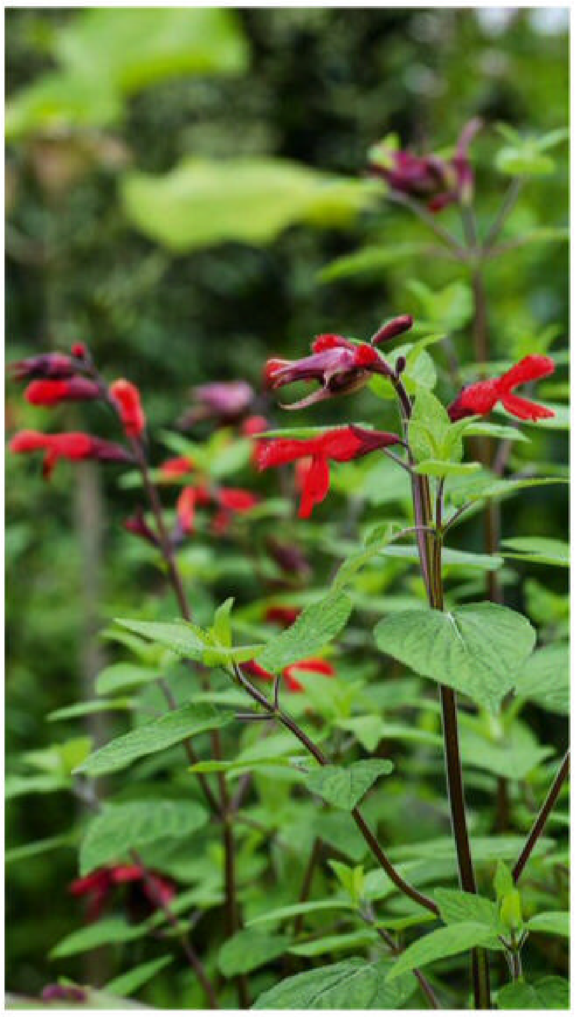
This dramatic and tender perennial, formerly known as *Senecio cristobalensis*, is one of my favourite foliage plants. It is a key plant for including in my exotic plantings where I repeat it through the border. Its large, velvety, purple-green leaves suit the exotic planting style at Hunting Brook perfectly. It sometimes produces yellow, ragwort-like flowers towards the end of the summer or into winter, which I usually cut off. I dig it up and bring it into an unheated tunnel for the winter where it survives but ends up looking very leggy. I prune it back hard in spring, using the pruned stems for taking cuttings.

Height 1.5m.
Origin Mexico.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3, USDA 9a-11.
Season of interest Summer for foliage.

SALVIA FULGENS

My salvia obsession was triggered after I attended a salvia summit in San Francisco a few years ago. Following this, I did a trial of 245 different salvias at Hunting Brook. *Salvia fulgens* was the winner because it flowered non-stop from late June until October with its large, velvety-red flowers. I always use it as a repeat plant with tall perennials and dahlias. This salvia is surprisingly hardy and can be left out during the winter at Hunting Brook. I prune it back almost to ground level every spring. Propagation by cuttings is very easy. AGM.

Height 1m.
Origin Mexico.
Conditions Well-drained soil; full sun.
Hardiness RHS H3.
Season of interest June to October for flowers.



▷ and Laura Willgoss. The planting is contemporary and refreshing to see in an old walled garden. I love their use of see-through perennials and their cutting-edge mix of many recently introduced perennials. I always like a nursery located in a garden where you can see the plants actually growing. The Walled Garden, Lower Millichope, Munslow, Shropshire SY7 9HE. Tel 01584 841890, wildegoosenursery.co.uk

One of the best exotic and subtropical gardens in the UK is **Tremenheere Sculpture Gardens** in Cornwall,though I always leave wondering why I try to grow exotics in my garden. The ravine garden is spectacular with its extensive collection of the Araliceae family and ferns towering over you as you walk through. Dr Neil Armstrong, the owner and creator of the gardens, is always developing and expanding the gardens so regular visits are highly recommended. Surreal Succulents Nursery at the entrance specialises in succulents, especially aeoniums, and don't miss the fantastic café. Gulval, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 8YL. Tel 01736 448089, tremenheere.co.uk

The garden made by Keith Wiley at **Wildside Garden** is one of the most cutting-edge and innovative gardens open to the public in the UK. Keith and his wife Ros sculpted a three-acre flat field with a mini-digger creating canyons and huge raised mounds. The planting is heavily influenced by the natural landscape from Keith's travels. I was there at this time of year a few years ago and remember being blown away by the mass planting of agapanthus and dierama. Keith is now developing a new area of the garden in memory of Ros, who passed away in 2019. Green Lane, Yelverton, Devon PL20 7NP. Tel 01822 855755, wileyatwildside.com

MADE IN BRITAIN
INTERNATIONAL PATENTS PENDING

Martin Hughes-Games (below) has called the Finches Friend a "brilliant innovation".

HELPING FINCHES IN A PINCH

With wild birds threatened by disease, a new feeder offers a safer way to welcome avian visitors into your garden

Watching birds flit about a feeder is one of the pleasures of having a garden. But when it comes to the species we love, are we killing them with kindness?

The answer, unfortunately, could be yes. Huge numbers of wild birds have been lost in recent decades to a parasitic disease commonly transmitted on bird feeders. This disease, known as trichomonosis, typically affects finches – the British Trust for Ornithology estimates that between 2006 and 2015, trichomonosis wiped out nearly three million greenfinches in the UK.

"As well as greenfinches, many other birds including house sparrows, siskin, chaffinches and bullfinches are affected," says natural history TV presenter Martin Hughes-Games.

Two people who saw first-hand how quickly trichomonosis can affect a wild bird population are Dick and Tina Woods from Kent. The couple loved the 60 or so finches, particularly greenfinches, that flocked to their feeders. Then, over a few weeks in 2016, all the greenfinches died.

The Woods were shocked. Spurred into action, they found out more about trichomonosis and how it spreads, and Dick decided to do something about it. With more than 40 years' industrial design and manufacture experience, he took on the challenge with enthusiasm.

An effective way to lower trichomonosis transmission is through good hygiene at feeding stations. Damp food can encourage the spread of the parasite, and feeders should be cleaned weekly, but most are fiddly to take apart and reassemble. So Dick set about designing a bird-friendly, easy-clean feeder.

"The key was separating the feed store from where the birds feed," says Dick, as where birds perch tends to be where the disease is passed on. After four years of research and development, he 3D-printed a feeder that solves the problem. Dick now works with a local injection-moulding firm to produce two commercial, recyclable versions with a low carbon footprint: a large feeder that can hold four types of feed, and a smaller version with two feed chambers.

The Finches Friend Cleaner Feeder is built to last and has a feed station that's easily removed as well as a storage section that keeps seed dry. Each feeder comes with a spare feed station so you can use a clean one while you wash the other.

Dick and Tina have already seen the benefits of the Cleaner Feeder in their own garden. "The Finches Friend feeders worked," says Dick. "The greenfinches returned." ■

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finches friend.

For more information, visit **finchesfriend.com**

TURNIP
SEEDS

QUICK FIXES

You may have your hands full with watering and feeding this month, but don't forget to future-proof your harvest by sowing turnips and salad greens, and planting out kale seedlings

WORDS AARON BERTELSEN ILLUSTRATION ALICE PATTULLO

3
WEEKS
SEEDS
LEAF SALAD
• PEPPERY •
MIZUNA, ROCKET, MUSTARD

With any luck, July is the month when you will start to feel like all the hard work you put in earlier in the year is paying off. With the garden and containers bursting with fruit and vegetables, it is sometimes difficult to look beyond the immediate need to keep watering and harvesting in order to keep plants healthy and productive and enjoy the produce at its best.

But even at this bountiful time of year, we must look to the future. I like to cut back perennial herbs, such as mint, thyme and rosemary, at this time, give them a good feed with organic sheep pellets and top dress with John Innes No.2 or another decent compost. Water well, and new growth will soon appear.

This is also the perfect time to sow peppery salad leaves such as rocket, mizuna and mustard greens, which are vulnerable to attack by flea beetle if sown earlier in the year. Get them started now, and you will still be harvesting your own fresh greens well into the winter.

What to sow

Along with peppery salad greens, turnips are ideally suited to a high summer sowing, as they too are popular with flea beetle. In the past, they were often dismissed as cattle food, but now – rather like my beloved pumpkins – they are having a moment in the limelight and I for one am very happy about this. They are particularly delicious when young and tender, so sow them regularly and harvest when they are just a little bigger than a golf ball. I like to roast them whole, tossed in a little olive oil and salt.

I find turnips do best sown direct. Sow thinly – I pour some seeds into the palm of one hand and use the fingers of the other to pick up a small pinch and sprinkle it on to the soil, trying to avoid the seeds clumping together. Water regularly and consistently to stop the roots from splitting. Try to avoid sowing turnips in the same soil as last year, as they are susceptible to club root, a soil-borne disease. A four-year gap is ideal, if you can manage it. Alternatively, they will do very well in a good-sized pot, but you must be diligent about the watering.

What to plant out

Get kale seedlings out now so they can put on some growth while the soil – and the weather – is still warm, and be ready for harvesting once the colder weather has done its magic and turned the starches to sugar. Ideally, wait until after the first frost. These are large plants, so leave around 45cm between each one when planting out – less if you are growing them in a pot. Firm the soil around them, water well and cover with netting to provide protection from cabbage white butterflies, which love to lay their eggs on the underside of the leaves, and from pigeons, which will make short work of a row of seedlings. Don't delay adding the netting until the next day as pigeons get up very early. You may find that the plants need support later on. They do not have very deep roots, and will suffer in strong winds. I use short, chestnut stakes – remember, you are only trying to support the stalk. Kale is also vulnerable to club root, so will need to be rotated through the vegetable garden and, if grown in a pot, planted into fresh compost.

What to harvest

In a decent summer, courgettes should be cropping well by now, raising the perennial question of what best to do with a glut of this most prolific of vegetables. Courgette soup makes for an interesting variation on the theme. My recipe comes from my neighbour, who grows her courgette plants on a pile of leaf mould – an excellent idea, as the courgettes stay clean when it rains or when they are watered. Water is vitally important to them. Skimp on it and they may become hollow inside, or develop blossom end rot. I like to harvest mine every morning, as they are much nicer eaten young and tender. Use a sharp knife to cut through the stem cleanly, rather than trying to pull or twist the fruit off. This way you are much less likely to cut into the stem or damage the other developing fruit. Take the opportunity to remove any deformed or damaged fruit, and some of the older leaves, so that the sunlight can get in and the air can circulate.

You can find Aaron's recipe for courgette soup at **gardensillustrated.com/recipes**

Jobs for July

Watering is never more important than now. Heat and dry soil can cause crops to run to seed so water thoroughly to keep plants from becoming stressed. You will be glad of any hard work you did in winter to incorporate organic matter: healthy soil with a good structure is much better at holding moisture.

Feed crops in pots once a week. By now any food that was in your compost or potting soil will be used up, and the plants will be relying on you for their nutrients. I like to use liquid seaweed or tomato food.

Keep picking soft fruit to encourage plants to produce more. I like to give them a boost with a sprinkling of pellets made from organic sheep manure. Water well after application to encourage plants to put on the growth that will form next year's fruiting wood.

Give gooseberries a summer prune. Cut the new growth back to five buds from the base of the branch. This will help to stop the plants getting congested, and keep the air circulating through them.

Now is prime time for fungal diseases. Think hard before reaching for the fungicide, though. In killing off the 'bad' fungus, you also risk killing off the good: the multiplicity of tiny organisms that contribute so much to the health of our soils. I prefer to focus on keeping my plants as healthy as possible, and on maintaining good hygiene and air circulation through regular picking, weeding and pruning.

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GARDENING TALENT

LUCY HUTCHINGS

Having swapped a career designing couture jewellery for growing heirloom vegetables, Lucy is sharing her passion for growing through her SheGrowsVeg Instagram feed

PORTRAIT ANDREW MONTGOMERY

Earliest garden memory Crawling through the rows of veg in my mother's kitchen garden, biting the sprouts straight off the plant. Apparently, it took my mum ages to figure out what rare and unusual pest her veg had fallen victim to.
First plant love Tomatoes – and the infatuation is just as strong to this day. They are just beautiful objects. If I could grow only one thing for the rest of my life, it would be heirloom tomatoes.
Who has inspired your career the most? My two daughters. As a single mum it was important to show them that you can make a career out of something you love, and that with hard work you can do anything you want.
Horticultural heroes I am hugely inspired by the work of plant stylist Hilton Carter and the botanical interiors he creates; I love that he terms it art rather than horticulture.
Favourite garden I adore the gardens at East Ruston Old Vicarage in Norfolk. Not a millimetre of space has been wasted and it is bursting with a riot of colours, shapes, themes and textures.
Three most worthwhile tips for every gardener Consider branching out from F1 hybrid veg varieties. There are some incredible heirloom varieties and I've never found an F1 that can stand up to an heirloom for flavour. Take time to learn about your growing environment; growing conditions can differ dramatically over relatively short distances. Don't be afraid to experiment and break some rules – it won't always work but it's a great way to learn and fun too.
Favourite planting style I'm a sucker for a polyculture-planted, ornamental/edible bed. Edible plants are often confined to regimented rows in the kitchen garden but give them the love afforded to ornamental plants and they have untold beauty to offer. Interplanting them creates a healthier, more naturalised growing environment; mix in some ornamental edibles, such as dahlias and the hyacinth bean or lablab, and you have a stunning garden bed.
One easy thing that every gardener can do to be more sustainable in their gardening Don't use peat; there is just no need. This is a really easy change we can all make that will have a huge impact on the planet.
Contact Find out more about Lucy at shegrowsveg.com and on Instagram @shegrowsveg. Her new book *Get Up And Grow* is out now (Hardie Grant Publishing, £16.99).

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Mary Keen on how a small town garden can flourish

ANGEL PELARGONIUMS

Another world

Sitting pretty
All about flowers

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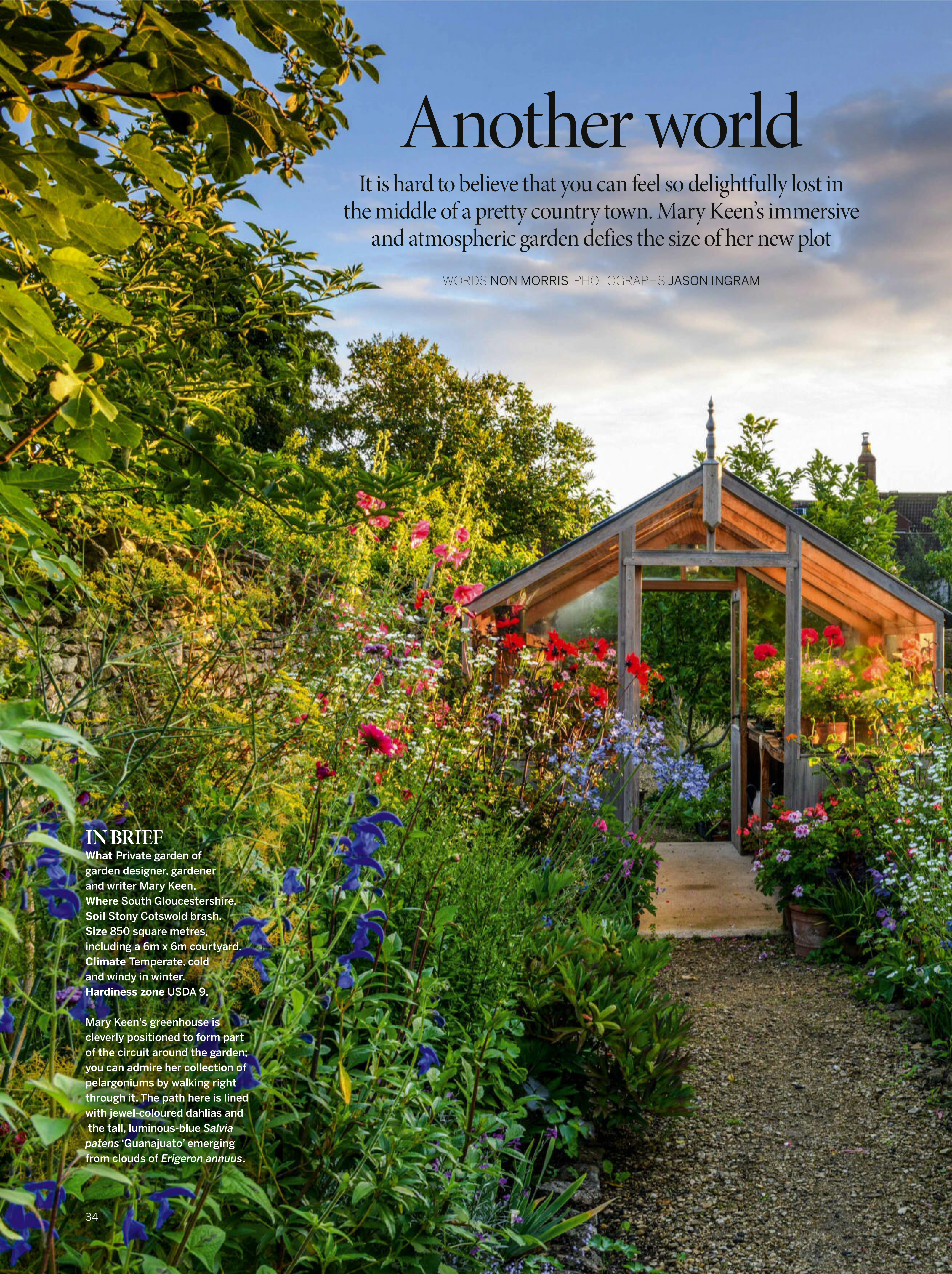
Another world

It is hard to believe that you can feel so delightfully lost in the middle of a pretty country town. Mary Keen's immersive and atmospheric garden defies the size of her new plot

WORDS NON MORRIS PHOTOGRAPHS JASON INGRAM



IN BRIEF

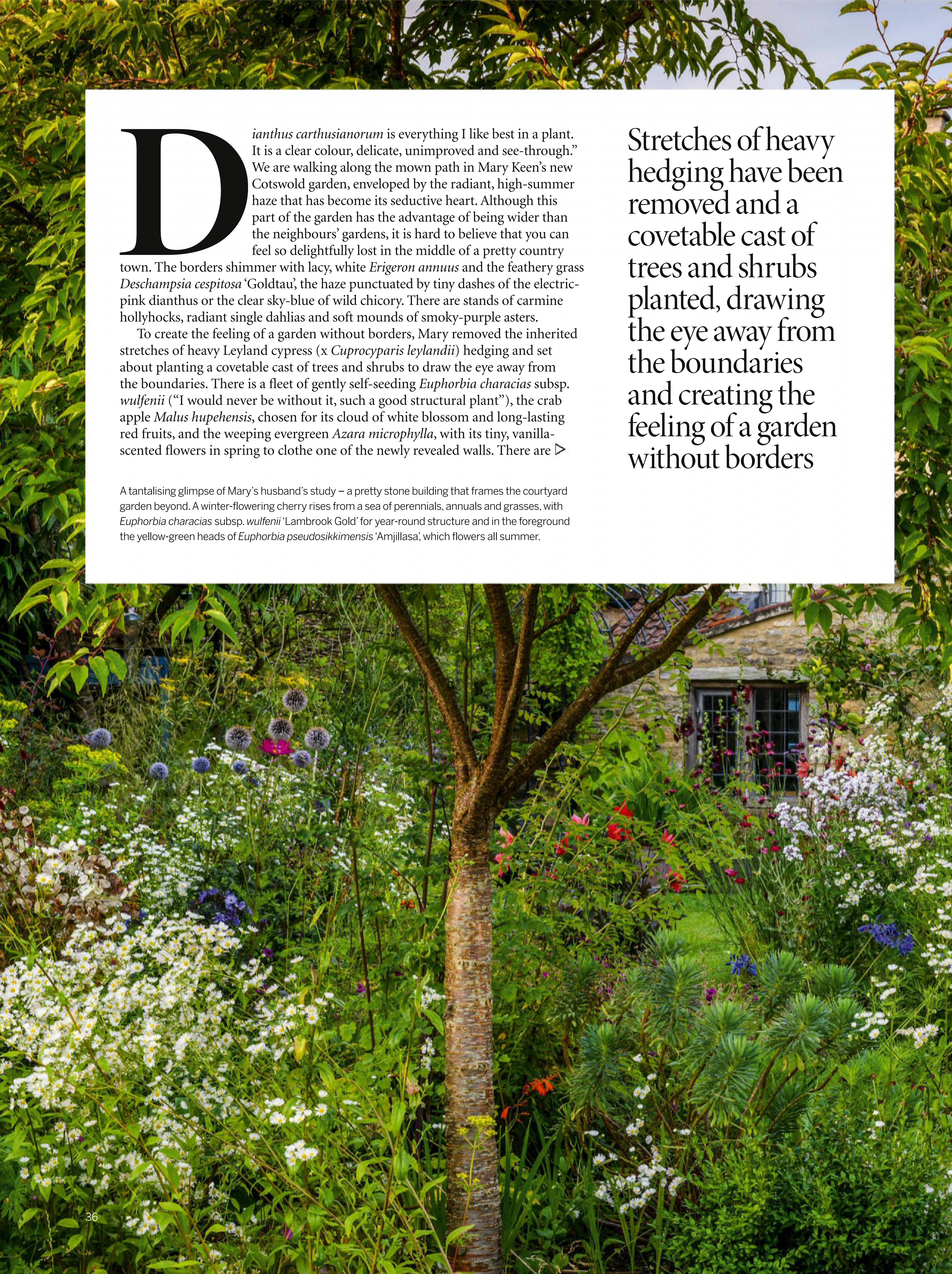
What Private garden of garden designer, gardener and writer Mary Keen.
Where South Gloucestershire.
Soil Stony Cotswold brash.
Size 850 square metres, including a 6m x 6m courtyard.
Climate Temperate, cold and windy in winter.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

Mary Keen's greenhouse is cleverly positioned to form part of the circuit around the garden; you can admire her collection of pelargoniums by walking right through it. The path here is lined with jewel-coloured dahlias and the tall, luminous-blue *Salvia patens* 'Guanajuato' emerging from clouds of *Erigeron annuus*.

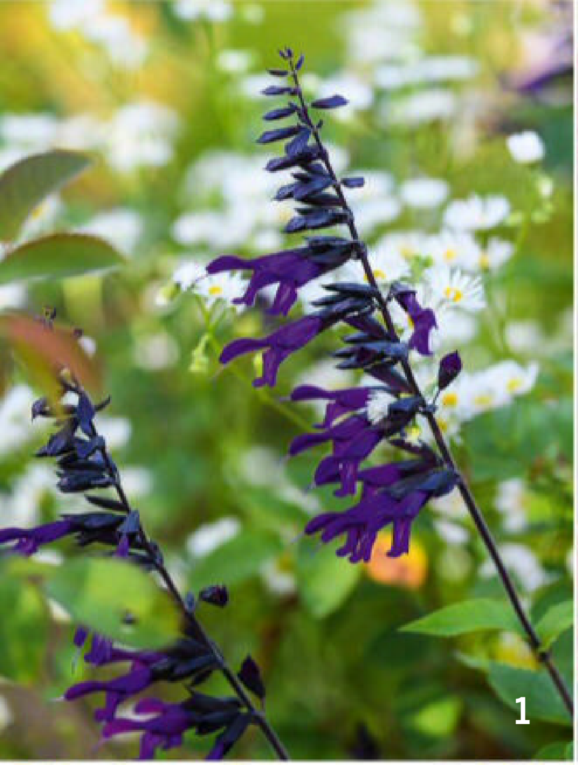
Dianthus carthusianorum is everything I like best in a plant. It is a clear colour, delicate, unimproved and see-through." We are walking along the mown path in Mary Keen's new Cotswold garden, enveloped by the radiant, high-summer haze that has become its seductive heart. Although this part of the garden has the advantage of being wider than the neighbours' gardens, it is hard to believe that you can feel so delightfully lost in the middle of a pretty country town. The borders shimmer with lacy, white *Erigeron annuus* and the feathery grass *Deschampsia cespitosa* 'Goldtau', the haze punctuated by tiny dashes of the electric-pink dianthus or the clear sky-blue of wild chicory. There are stands of carmine hollyhocks, radiant single dahlias and soft mounds of smoky-purple asters.

To create the feeling of a garden without borders, Mary removed the inherited stretches of heavy Leyland cypress (x *Cuprocyparis leylandii*) hedging and set about planting a covetable cast of trees and shrubs to draw the eye away from the boundaries. There is a fleet of gently self-seeding *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* ("I would never be without it, such a good structural plant"), the crab apple *Malus hupehensis*, chosen for its cloud of white blossom and long-lasting red fruits, and the weeping evergreen *Azara microphylla*, with its tiny, vanilla-scented flowers in spring to clothe one of the newly revealed walls. There are ▷

Stretches of heavy hedging have been removed and a covetable cast of trees and shrubs planted, drawing the eye away from the boundaries and creating the feeling of a garden without borders



A tantalising glimpse of Mary's husband's study – a pretty stone building that frames the courtyard garden beyond. A winter-flowering cherry rises from a sea of perennials, annuals and grasses, with *Euphorbia characias* subsp. *wulfenii* 'Lambrook Gold' for year-round structure and in the foreground the yellow-green heads of *Euphorbia pseudosikkimensis* 'Amjillasa', which flowers all summer.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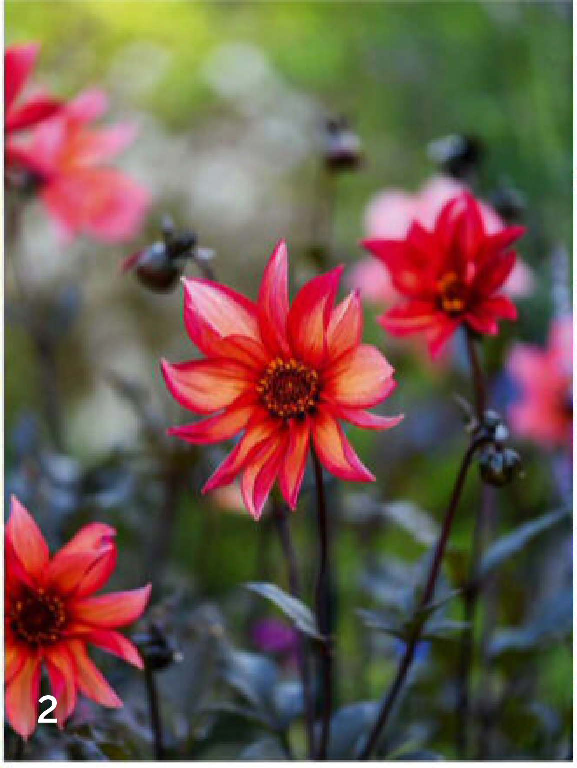
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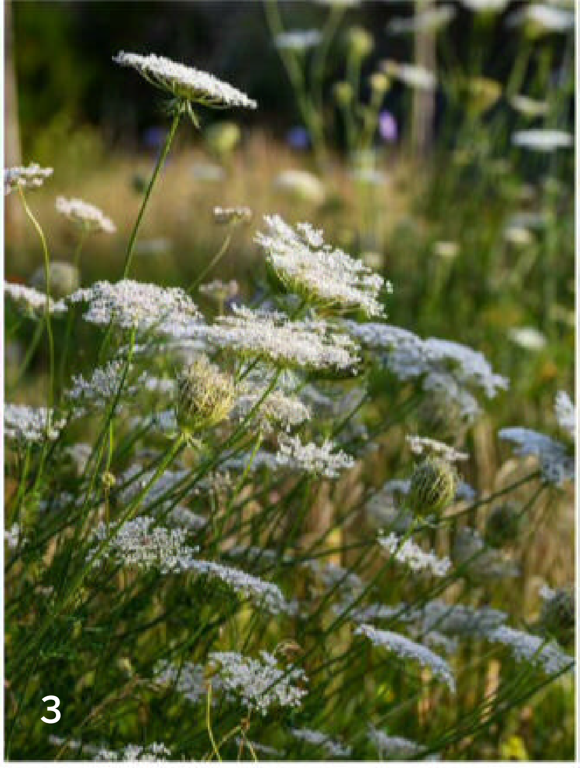
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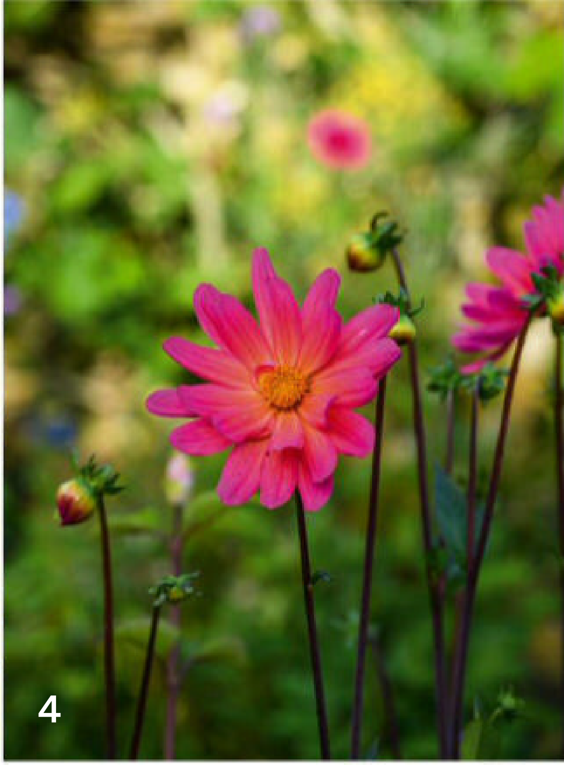
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24 KEY PLANTS

1 *Salvia* 'Amistad' A towering plant with rich, velvety-purple flowers that offer a dark accent from May until November. 1.5m. AGM*. RHS H3†.

2 *Dahlia* 'Waltzing Mathilda' One of Mary's favourite dahlias, this single-flowered cultivar is great for pollinators. Its blooms are a warm coral colour that are held above black-crimson foliage. 75cm. AGM. RHS H3.

3 *Daucus carota* The attractive wild carrot, which Mary grows from seed, forms gentle, lacy, white platforms amid the soft grasses in summer – a calming contrast to the richly coloured beds. 75cm. RHS H7.

4 *Dahlia* 'Karma Fuchsiana' A beautiful dahlia with prolific, bright-pink flowers surrounding a fluorescent, lime-yellow heart. 80cm. RHS H3.

5 *Echinops ritro* 'Veitch's Blue' This perennial globe thistle, much loved by bees, has silver, branching stems bearing spherical heads of indigo-blue, adding a neat, bobbing contrast to the airiness of plants such as *Erigeron annuus*. Good for cutting and flowers more than once in a season. 1m. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

6 *Knautia arvensis* Field scabious is a native perennial with pale-mauve, pincushion-like flowerheads on slender stems over a long period from midsummer. Mary has planted plugs of it in the wildflower meadow, which has proved very effective. 1.5m. RHS H7.

7 *Erigeron annuus* The tall fleabane is a short-lived perennial with delicate, small, white daisies from August to December, which works brilliantly between robust perennials. Mary thins out seedlings where they are not wanted. 1m. RHS H6.

8 *Dahlia* 'Winston Churchill' Mary loves this dahlia for its rich, shocking-pink colour late in the season – and also because it came from the Rothschild family garden at Eythrope in Buckinghamshire, which was the subject of Mary's book *Paradise and Plenty*. 90cm-1.2m. RHS H3.

9 *Tagetes patula* 'Cinnabar' This marigold, a wonderfully tall form from Great Dixter, is a half-hardy annual with fiery-red, single flowers finely outlined in gold. The plants are well branched, and flower from summer to the first frosts. 90cm.

10 *Alcea rosea* Single hollyhock in a rich-plum colour – a gift from landscape architect Pip Morrison. Mary tackles rust by pulling off affected leaves. 2m. RHS H5, USDA 2a-10b.

11 *Agapanthus* One of a collection of Headbourne hybrids – hardy, deciduous agapanthus – that have been chosen by Mary for the clarity of their blues. 50cm-1m. RHS H4.

12 *Salvia patens* 'Guanajuato' A large and beautiful salvia that came from Derry Watkins at Special Plants Nursery, which is based near to Mary's new home. Sumptuous, rich-blue flowers on tall stems. Needs sun and good drainage. This salvia should come through the winter – well mulched as with a dahlia – but Mary keeps a plant for spring cuttings too. 1m. RHS H3.

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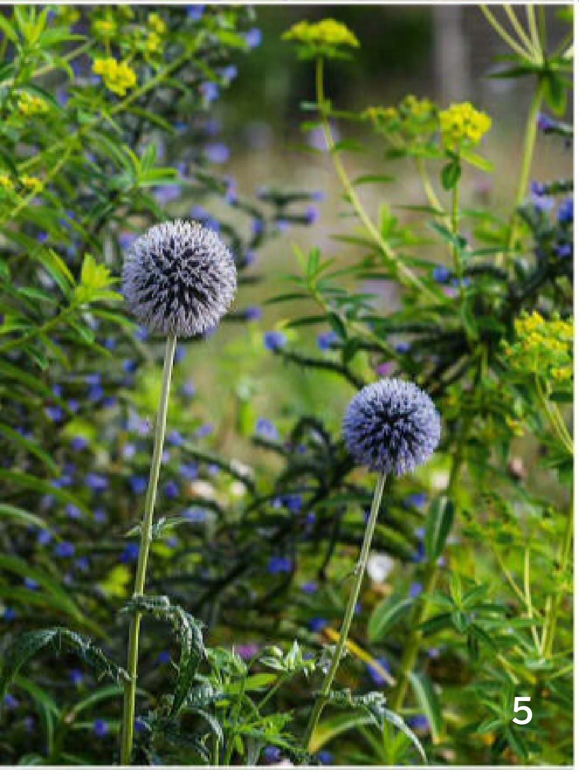
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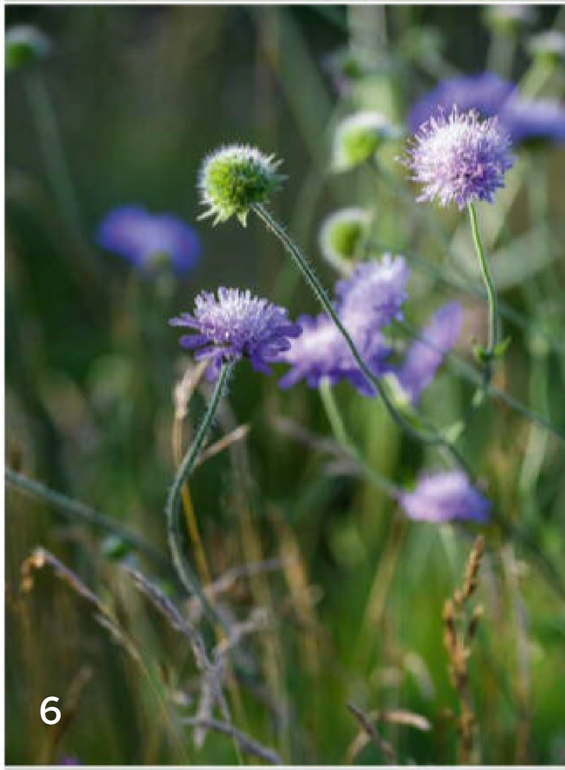
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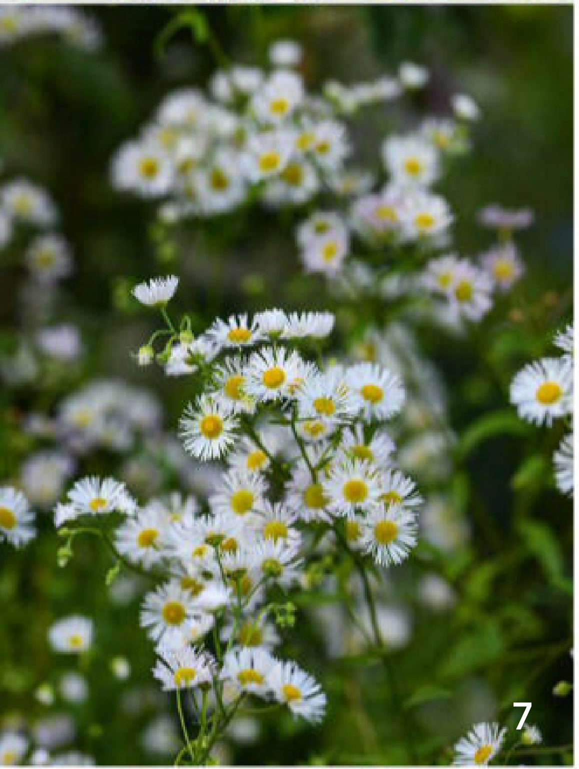
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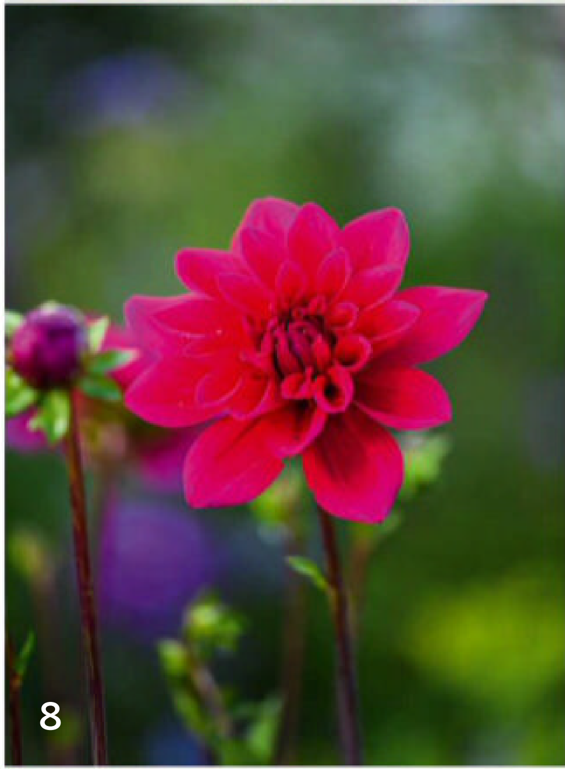
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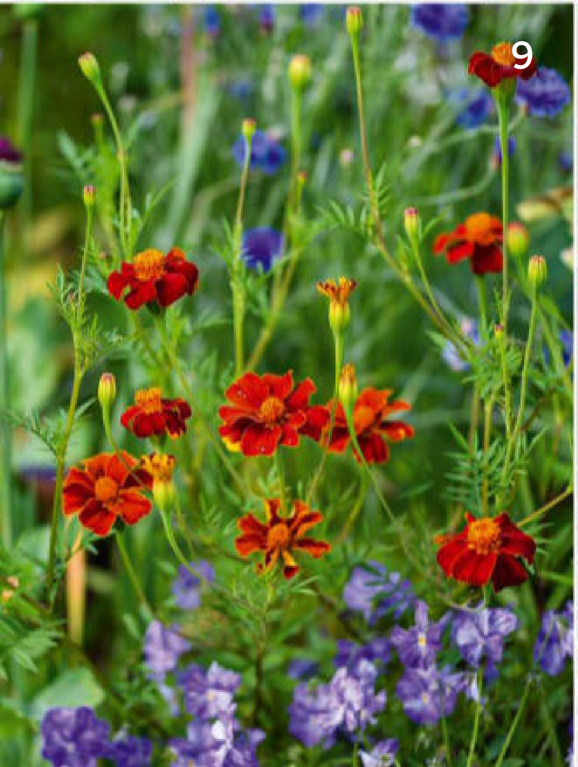
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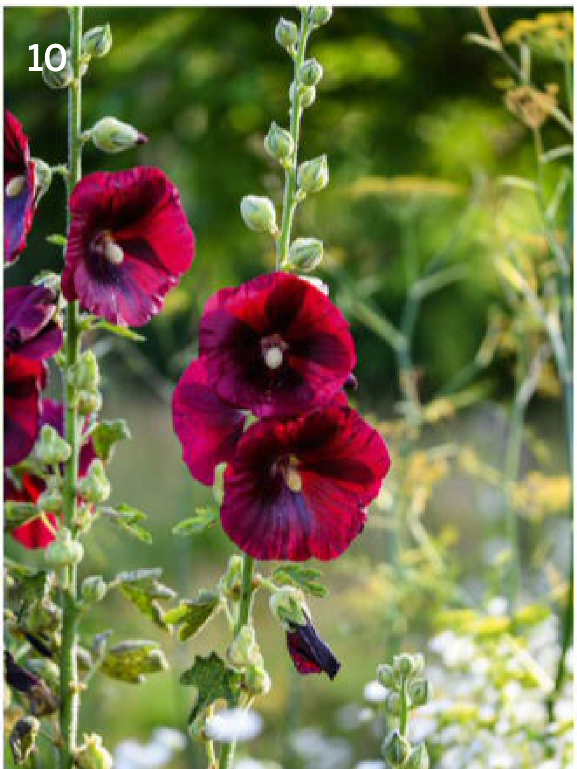
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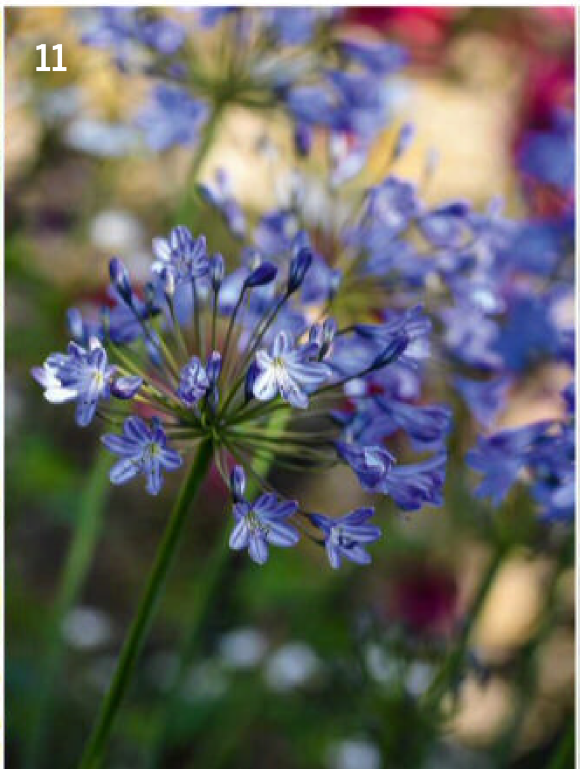
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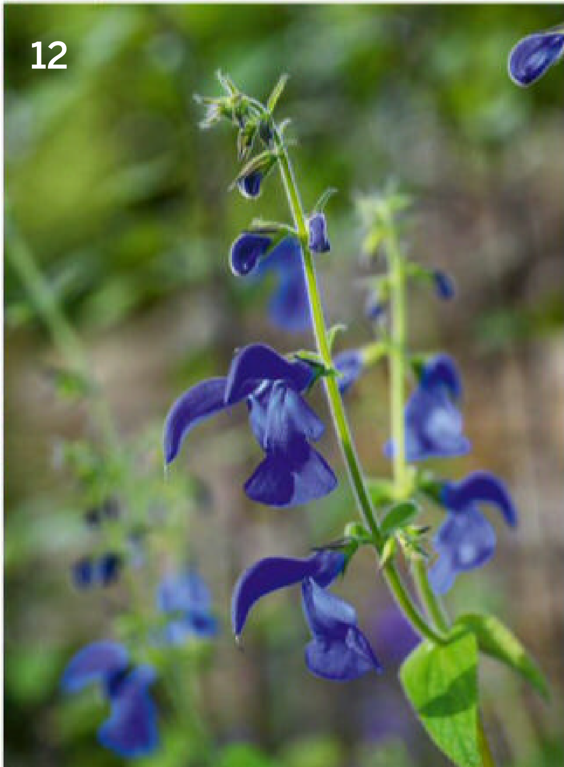
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▷ 20 different roses too, each of which has been quietly absorbed into the garden to add texture, colour or scent. There is *Rosa* 'Scharlachglut' emerging from long grass, with its "big, big crimson flowers – almost vulgar" – and both *R.* x *odorata* 'Mutabilis' and *R.* x *odorata* 'Bengal Crimson' in the sheltered courtyard next to the house where they flower from spring until Christmas.

The mown path continues through a stretch of wildflower meadow to a small orchard. "I couldn't make a garden without an apple tree," says Mary. "We had room for just three trees so I chose apples we like to eat. 'Ashmead's Kernel' is a really delicious Gloucestershire cultivar and we have 'Discovery' and 'Egremont Russet'. There are three pear trees too including 'Concorde', which is the pear you must grow if you have room for only one."

The meadow began by "just letting the grass grow long". Mary was delighted to find an established colony of the orange-flowered *Pilosella aurantiaca* and has been avidly adding layers with plug plants and bulbs. The meadow is particularly exciting in May and June when hundreds of *Narcissus poeticus* give way to the clear-pink form of *Gladiolus communis* subsp. *byzantinus*, and the elegant, sky-blue *Camassia cusickii*.

As you make your way around the garden, there are inviting places to sit – always in the shade of a tree or under a bower of roses – or you might want to investigate the stone Wendy House, a perfect, miniature house built in the 1970s, a dream for a young child but perfect for stowing away agapanthus in the winter too.

To continue turn to page 42 ▷

Courtyard creation

Mary relishes the shelter afforded by her courtyard garden and the year-round abundance of choice plants visible from the kitchen windows. Having replaced the York stone paving with light-reflecting gravel and painted the garden doors a luminous blue, she filled the enlarged beds with an intense mix of blues "with a dash of salmon that makes the blues sing". *Rosa* x *odorata* 'Mutabilis' and climbing *Fuchsia* 'Lady Boothby' flower for weeks on end; *Daphne bholua*, lilies and *Gladiolus murielae* take it in turn to scent the walled space; and so far, an *Acacia dealbata* has survived its first wicked winter. For structure, there is *Melianthus major*, *Polystichum setiferum* 'Pulcherrimum Bevis' (the "best of ferns") and *Coronilla valentina* subsp. *glauca* 'Citrina'. Shocking-pink *Cyclamen coum* "thrills all winter" and the same intense colour is echoed in March by the almond-scented Japanese apricot, *Prunus mume* 'Beni-chidori'. Favourite pot plants are the long-flowering *Pelargonium* 'Copthorne', which flanks the steps, and the glamorous *Paeonia rockii*, spreading happily from a handsome urn.

Stands of towering hollyhocks, some planted right up against the boundary wall, help the garden feel more spacious than it is. In high summer the hollyhocks are combined with much-loved dahlias – “always single and open-faced to encourage pollinating” – such as ‘Winston Churchill’, ‘Waltzing Mathilda’ and ‘Bishop of Llandaff’.

The meadow began by “just letting the grass grow long”, then adding layers with plug plants and bulbs

▷ The path loops around compost bins discreetly hidden behind some plump box (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Rotundifolia') and travels, rather brilliantly, right through the traditional wooden Woodpecker Joinery greenhouse. "I think in a small garden walking through the greenhouse is key – otherwise it's a dead end."

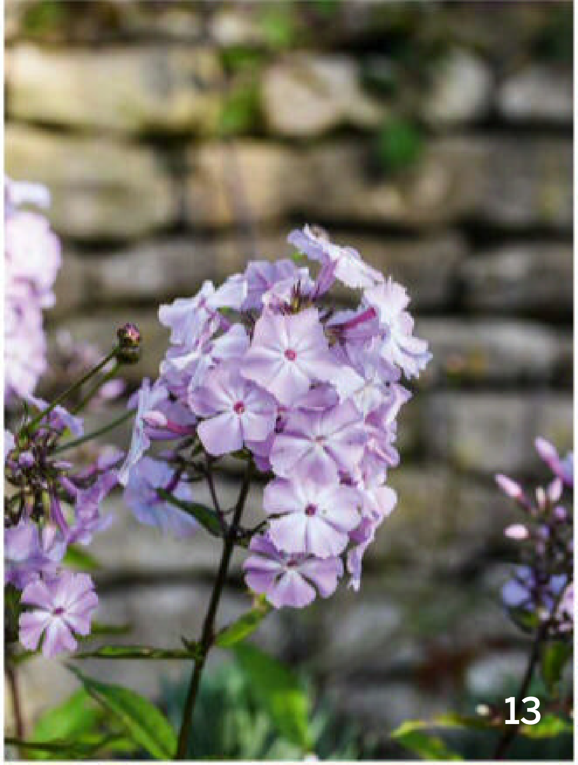
On to the working area, the existing breeze-block potting shed now attractively reboarded and retiled. Collections of pea sticks stand in open-mouthed jars and industrial shelves are neatly stacked with terracotta pots. Working with sympathetic builders Danny and Alan White – who dug the greenhouse foundations by hand and converted the old woodstore into an auricula theatre with a glass roof, decorative lead flashing and neat, scalloped edging – made the development of the garden a pleasure.

Back through the rose arches to the small, walled courtyard, which fills the view from the kitchen window. This sheltered space has been transformed from a plain and orderly terrace to a luminous, painterly garden, spilling over with colour and scent throughout the year. The York stone paving has been replaced with sandy Cotswold hoggin, "which makes it feel bigger and lighter", and filled with a succession of delights: scented wands of lemon verbena (*Aloysia citrodora*), rich, dangling heads of *Fuchsia* 'Lady Boothby', the elegant, salmon glow of *Kniphofia thomsonii*.

Mary Keen wanted to create an inviting and atmospheric garden – with a sense of surprise – and she has succeeded entirely. Her approach is both practical and deeply intuitive and her individual plant choices are the gloriously colourful result of a life spent observing, tending and growing. ■

Mary grows 20 different roses, each of which has been quietly absorbed into the garden to add colour, texture or scent

The mown path leads from the garden into the wildflower meadow. The meadow started by letting the grass grow long but now dances with favourite, delicate plants such as the tiny, pink heads of *Dianthus carthusianorum* (Mary grows a preferred tall form from seed) and the pale-mauve field scabious *Knautia arvensis*.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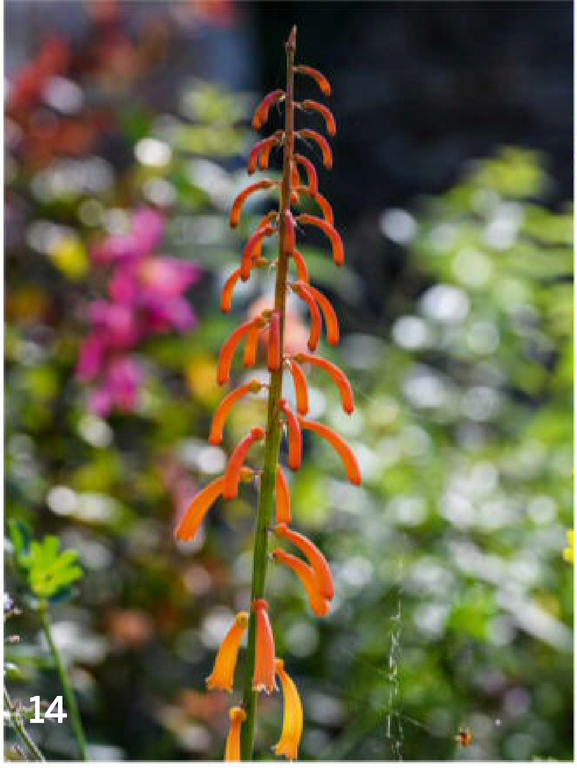
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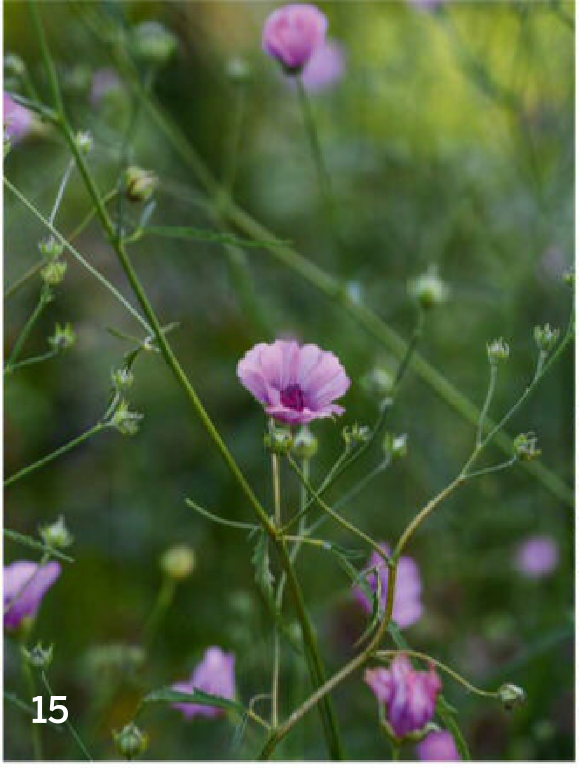
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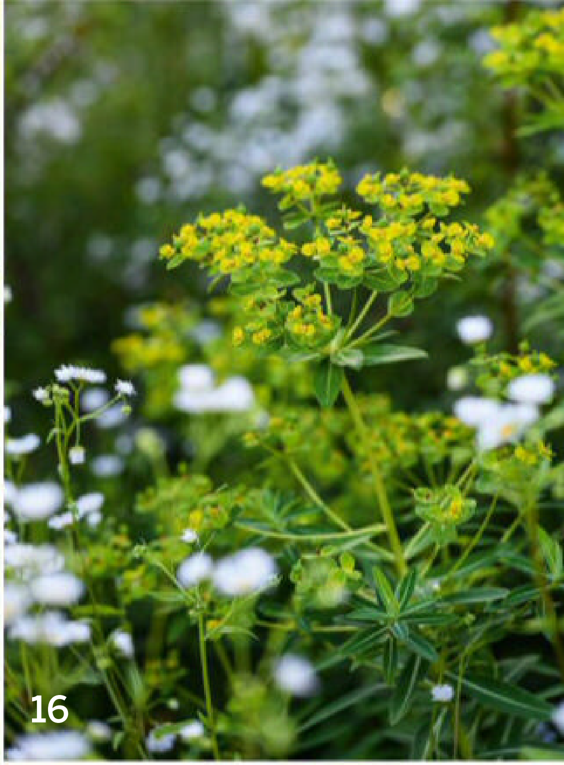
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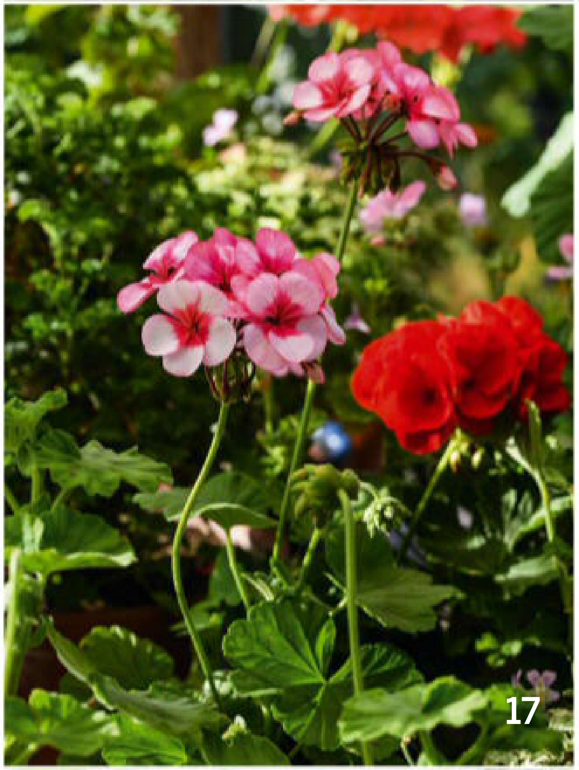
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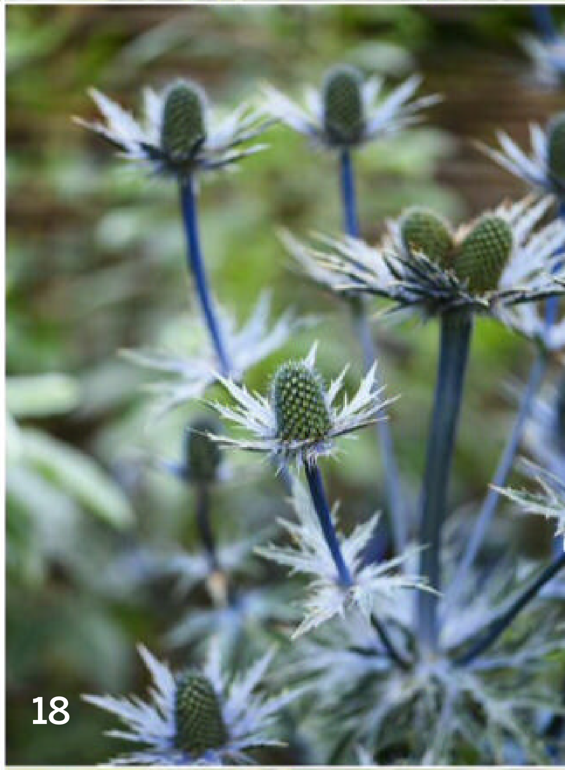
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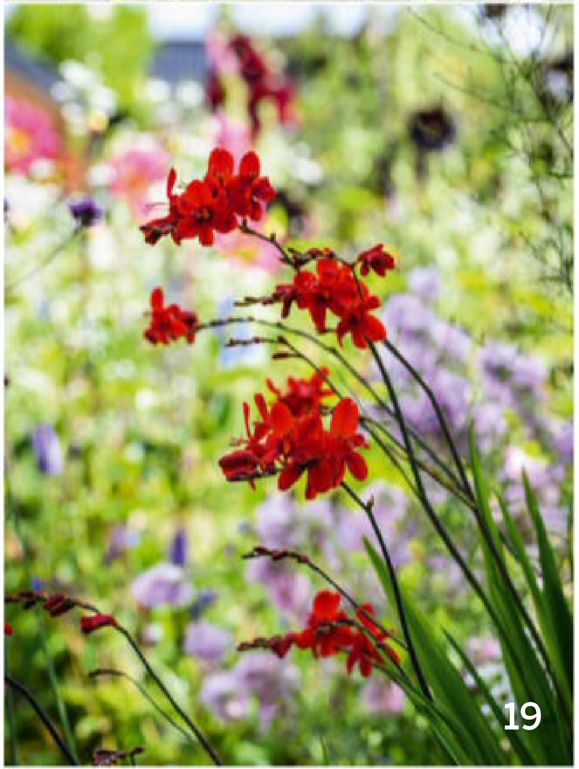
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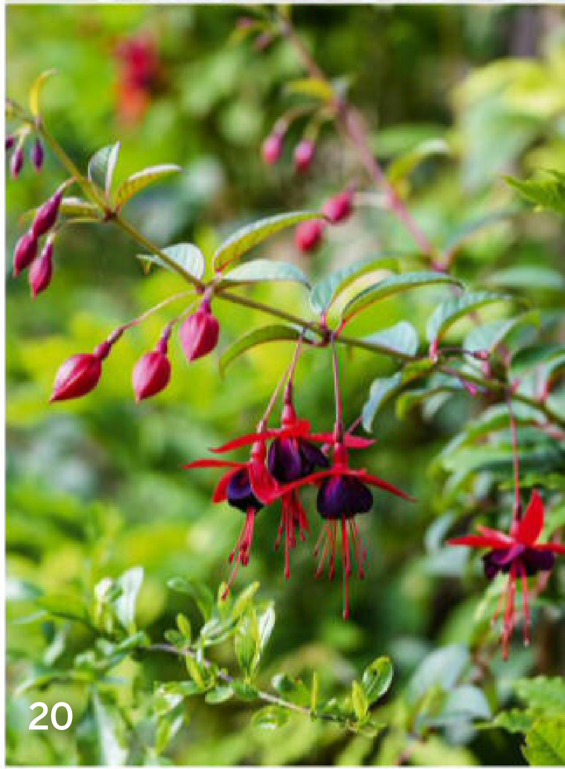
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24 PLANTS CONTINUED

13 *Phlox paniculata* ‘Nirvana’ A delicately coloured and long-flowering border phlox with small, white flowers set off by purple eyes and buds. 90cm. RHS H7.

14 *Kniphofia thomsonii* A particularly graceful, rare kniphofia that Mary grows in her sheltered courtyard garden. Flowering in late summer, the well-spaced, individual blooms curve delicately downwards, and are a luminous orange flushed with yellow. 1m. RHS H3.

15 *Althaea cannabina* Hardy, upright perennial with small, hollyhock-like, lavender-pink flowers with a dark eye on tall, willowy stems from July to October – the very definition of airiness. 1.5-2.5m. RHS H7.

16 *Euphorbia ceratocarpa* One of many euphorbias in Mary’s garden. An evergreen sub-shrub grown for its yellow-green flowers, which lift the darker colours of neighbouring plants over a sensationally long period. 1.7-2m. AGM. RHS H4.

17 *Pelargonium* ‘Venus’ A salmon-pink pelargonium with a dark centre. “I like anything with a dark eye,” says Mary. “‘Venus’ was also a favourite of the Duchess of Devonshire. It needs renewing often from cuttings or it sulks.” 40cm. RHS H1C.

18 *Eryngium* x *zabelii* ‘Big Blue’ An upright perennial with spiky, silvery-green foliage and stiff, branched stems. The blue, thimble-shaped flowerheads are surrounded by a ruff of prickly, silvery-blue bracts. 70cm. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

19 *Crocosmia* ‘Hellfire’ A large-flowered cultivar bearing clusters of rich, deep-red flowers on arching stems from summer to autumn. Wonderful for adding intense colour to the shade – “but it needs water”. 1-1.5m. AGM. RHS H5.

20 *Fuchsia* ‘Lady Boothby’ Rich-crimson and dark-purple flowers from June until October. “I love fuchsias,” says Mary. “They conjure up the West Country for me and flower for such a long time.” Mary trains hers against the courtyard garden wall. 2.5-4m. AGM. RHS H4.

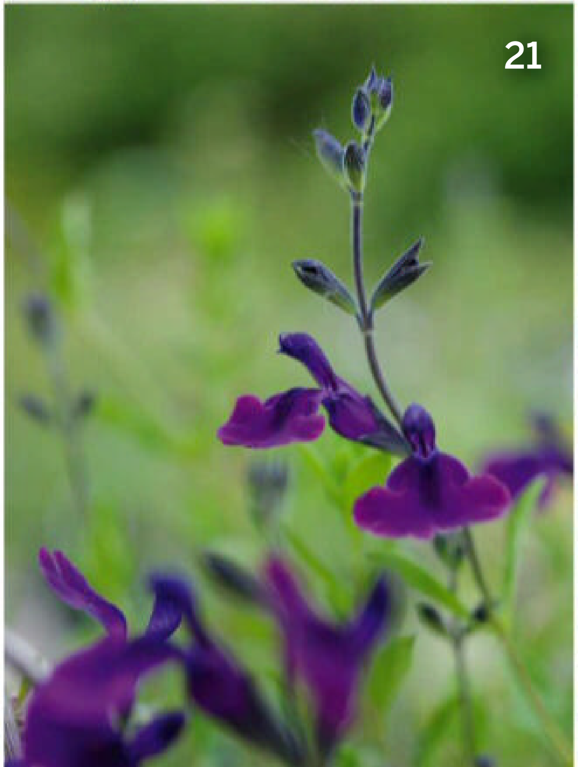
21 *Salvia* ‘Nachtvlinder’ A bushy plant with aromatic, neat, mid-green leaves and small, velvety, dark-purple flowers that last from June to November. An excellent companion for roses. 75cm. AGM. RHS H5.

22 *Sanguisorba officinalis* ‘Red Thunder’ One of Mary’s favourite plants, which she loves for its airy quality. Neat, dark-red flowers seem to float on slender, upright stems from June to September. 1.2m. RHS H7.

23 *Cicerbita bourgaei* This chicory relative from northern Turkey and the Caucasus has bright, blue-petalled flowers all summer on multiple stems. Mary grows it in the wildflower meadow: “It’s so, so hard to find such a clear blue.” 50cm-1.5m. RHS H5, USDA 3a-8b.

24 *Allium lusitanicum* A pretty perennial bulb, useful for its long flowering period from mid- to late summer, and retaining its good, dark-pink colour rather than turning brown. 50-75cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-9b.

[*] Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†] Hardiness ratings given where available.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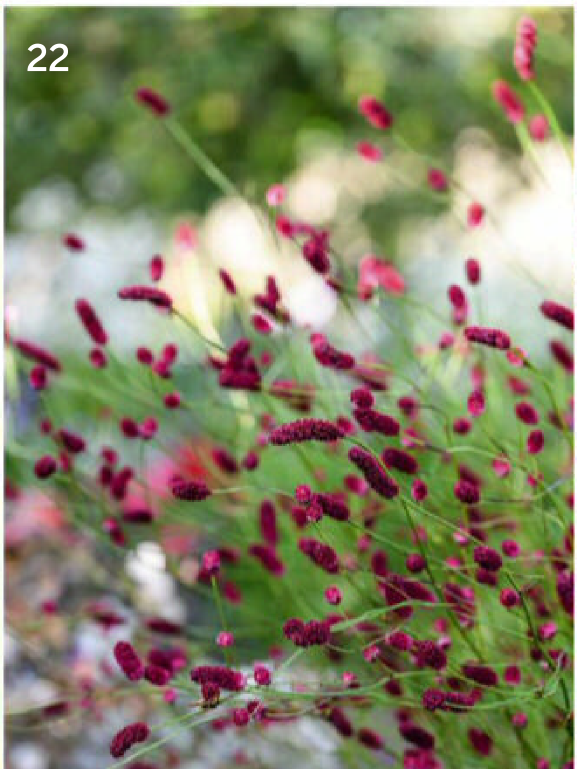
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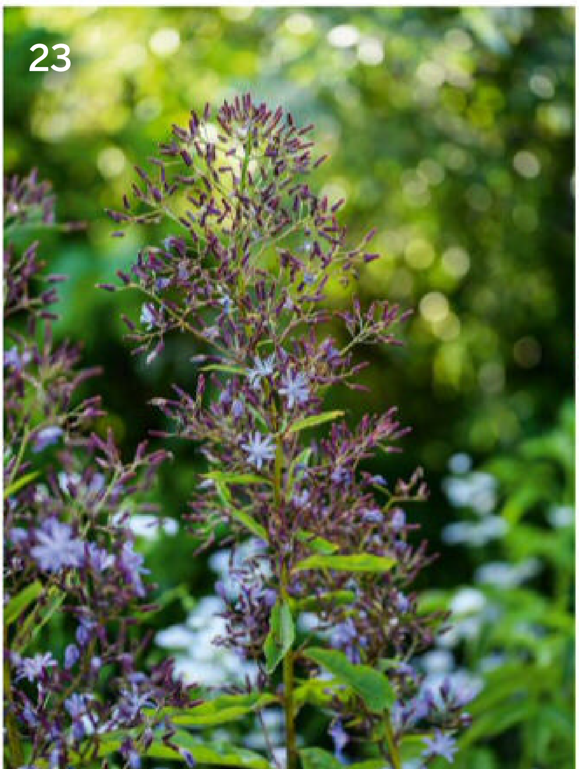
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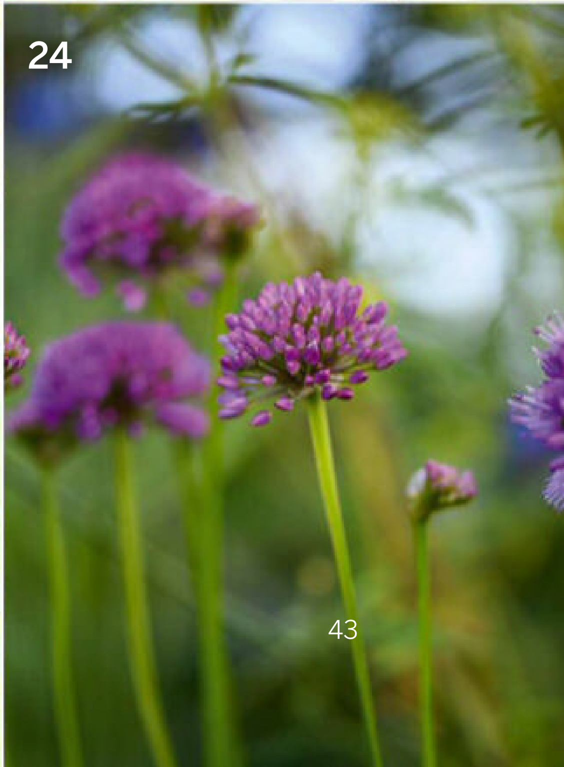
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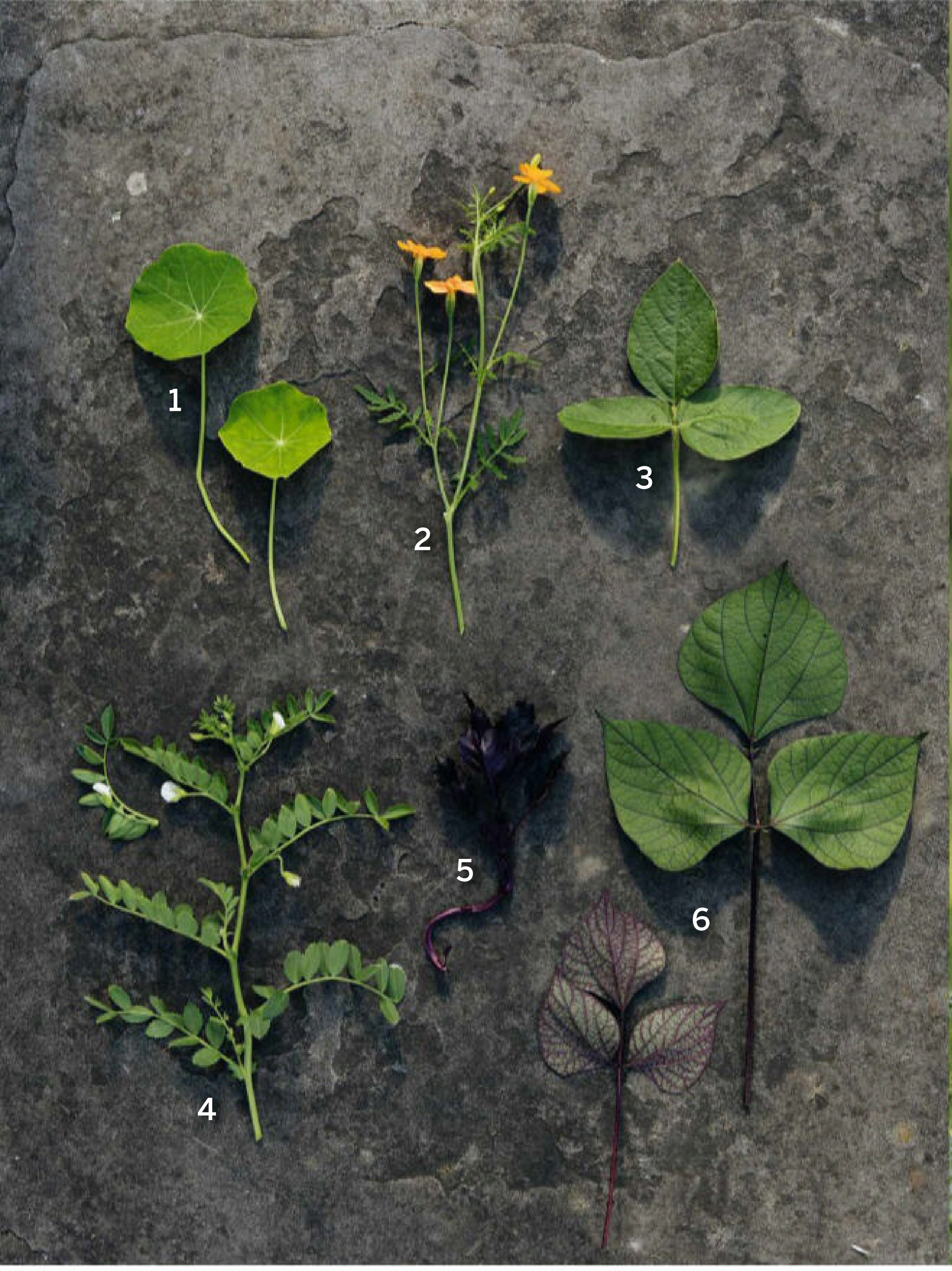
Beautiful bounty

Designer Alison Jenkins creates three hard-working container combinations that look terrific and taste even better

WORDS **ALISON JENKINS** PHOTOGRAPHS **EVA NEMETH**



BATH-TIME TREATS

I love planting edibles in containers as you can place them where they are handy, particularly when it comes to herbs and salads, of which you often need to pick just a few leaves at a time. I couldn't resist this vintage tin bath when I spotted it outside our local reclamation yard. I particularly like the contrast of the rusted legs against the galvanised surface and knew it would make a great planter with its generous proportions.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition

The bath tub needed some height to balance out its width so I made a teepee with a twisted willow spiral. A vertical structure also increases the amount of food you can grow in a small space. I've opted here for an African hyacinth bean, which has attractive foliage before the purple flowers and glossy pods appear. The nasturtium, not yet visible here, will join it with antique rose-like flowers later in the season. The chickpea and tagetes have very fine foliage and provide a nice contrast to the broader leaves of the soya beans, and the dark-purple basil leaves stand out against the fresh greens. I liked the bright-orange colour pop of the tagetes flowers, which are not only edible but attract beneficial insects and pollinators too.

Cultivation and care

I grew all these plants quite easily from seed planted in April. They are all tender so I potted them on into 9cm pots and waited until all risk of frost was over in late May before planting them out, but you can sow direct into planters in June for a later display if you prefer. The chickpeas and edamame become quite sizeable so need regular watering. You'll need to keep an eye on the hyacinth bean (or lablab) and nasturtium as they are growing so that they can be trained into the teepee as required. They don't necessarily need securing with string unless the growing site is windy; it may be enough just to tuck them into the structure to encourage them to grow up in the right direction.

Plants

1 *Tropaeolum minus* 'Ladybird Rose' The flowers, leaves and seedheads of nasturtiums are all edible. 75cm. RHS H2[†].

2 *Tagetes tenuifolia* 'Tangerine Gem' Small, neat bush with tiny flowers and scented foliage. 30cm. RHS H2.

3 *Glycine max* Soya beans grow in hairy pods that can be shelled or eaten whole when immature. 50cm. RHS H2.

4 *Cicer arietinum* 'Principe' Easy-to-grow chickpea with attractive, ferny foliage and white flowers. 75cm. RHS H3.

5 *Ocimum basilicum* var. *purpurascens* 'Purple Ruffles' Pick purple basil regularly if you don't want it to bolt, although the flowers are lovely too. 30cm. RHS H1C.

6 *Lablab purpureus* 'Ruby Moon' This tender African hyacinth bean has glossy, edible, purple pods. 2m. RHS H2.

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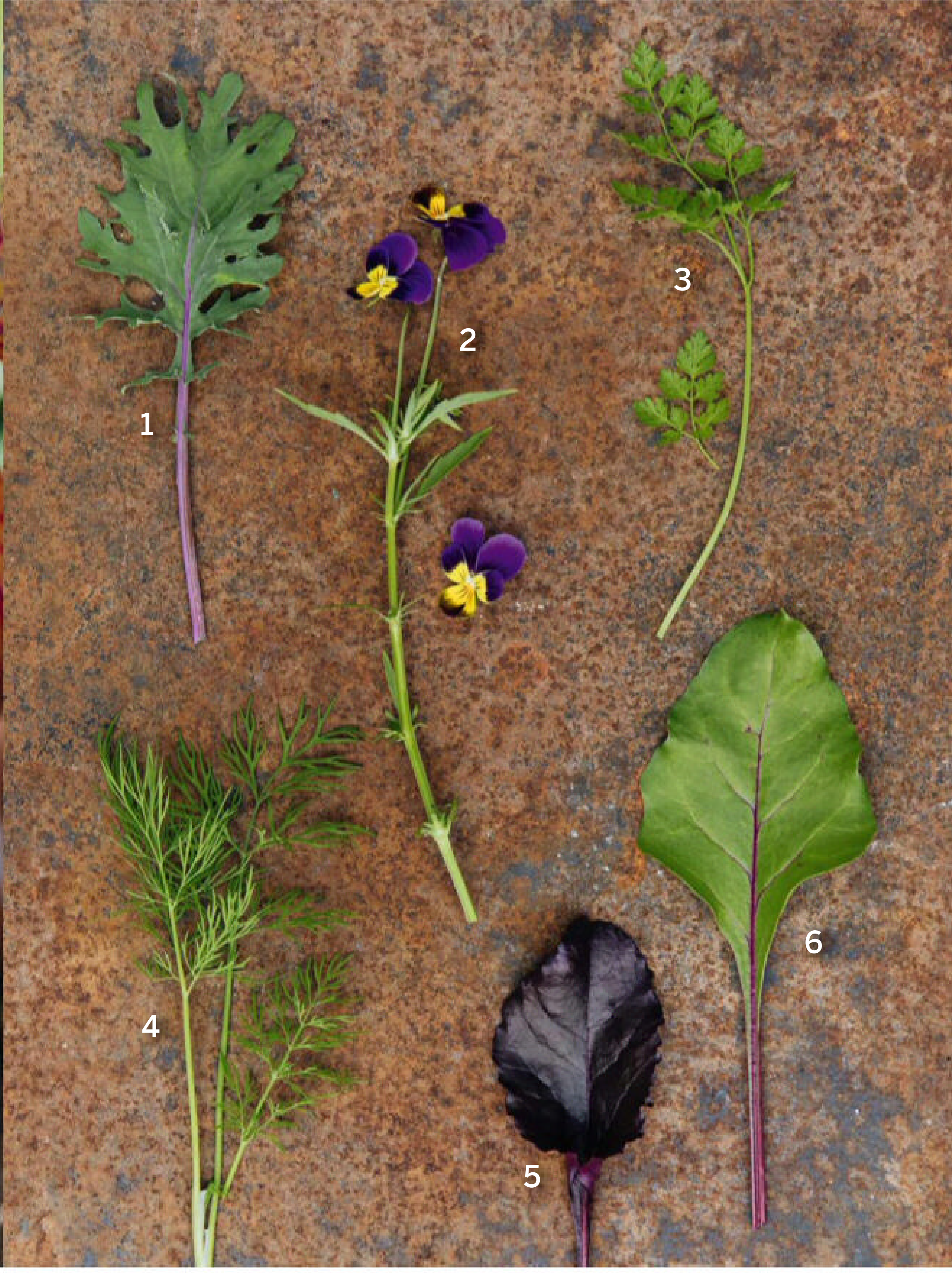
[*] Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. [†] Hardiness ratings given where available.



SALAD TO GO

I liked the idea of packing a variety of different herbs and salad leaves into the same planter, which is small enough to be picked up and placed on the table for people to help themselves. This old, metal, workshop drawer, which would once have stored machine parts or tools, is a perfect size. It has robust handles and is deep enough to keep the plants well nourished. It also makes a quirky centrepiece.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition

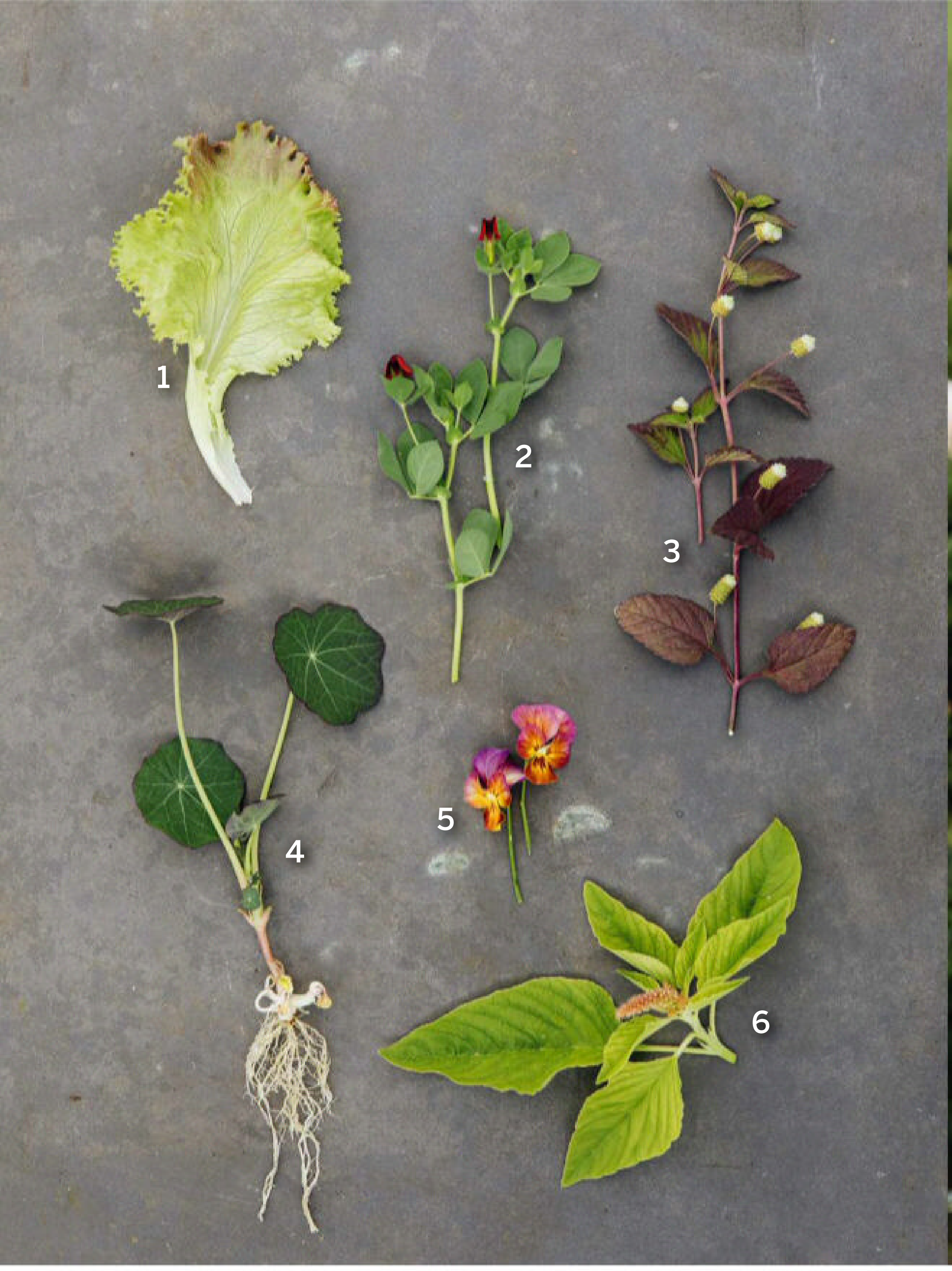
Containers such as this old workshop drawer should be relatively easy to find if you have a sharp eye at salvage yards or auctions. I chose a selection of plants that would not only look good together but taste good together too. If the flavours I've chosen are too strong for your taste, you could use them more sparingly to pep up a subtler base of, for example, little gem or iceberg lettuce. The delicate leaves of the aniseed-flavoured chervil and the fine, feathery dill are a nice contrast to the bolder foliage of the beetroot and kale. The wild viola flowers bring a bit of visual zing to the party. You could substitute parsley for the chervil or purple basil for the beetroot to suit your tastes.

Cultivation and care

You could harvest these leaves and flowers selectively and lightly and it would still look fresh for a good couple of months. If you want to harvest more heavily, you could think of it as a display to last a month or so, and have small, 9cm pots or modules of other plants waiting in the wings to replace them. You could also take the opportunity to ring seasonal changes and sow cool-season, oriental salad leaves, such as mizuna, mustards and wasabi rocket, in August ready to plant up in September. Some herbs, such as coriander, also do well from late sowings. Kept in a cool place, such as a cold greenhouse or porch, you could be picking leaves throughout the winter.

Plants

1 *Brassica napus* 'Red Russian' One of the sweetest-tasting and shortest of the kales, with attractive, blue-grey, wavy leaves. 60cm. RHS H5.
2 *Viola tricolor* The pretty, edible wild pansy, or heart's ease, will self-seed easily to create groundcover. 15cm. RHS H7.
3 *Anthriscus cerefolium* Chervil, a hardy, aniseed-flavoured herb, prefers partial shade. 30cm. RHS H4.
4 *Anethum graveolens* Dill has fine foliage and pretty, yellow, umbellifer flowers that are popular with florists. 90cm. RHS H4, USDA 2a-11.
5 *Beta vulgaris* 'Bulls Blood' A beetroot grown primarily for its dark-red leaves, best eaten young. 30cm. RHS H5, USDA 2a-11.
6 *Beta vulgaris* 'Bona' This beetroot has green leaves with attractive, red veins. 30cm. AGM*. RHS H5.



CORAL SHADES

Planting single species of plants in individual containers gives you lots of flexibility when putting together a composition. Edible plants often have a shorter season of looking good than ornamental plants so that was especially useful here. I particularly liked the unusual, muted, coral tones of the amaranth flowers so I tried to pick up on this with the other plants in the arrangement.

How to achieve the look

Container and composition
I do have a bit of a thing for old galvanised containers so whenever I spot a particularly good one I can usually convince myself that I need it. As they often have handles they are easy to move around as the seasons change. I liked the bold, lime-green foliage of the amaranth, which contrasted well with the darker tones of the iceberg lettuce and the lippia. It is a particular favourite among florists for its dramatically tasselled flowers, but its seeds and foliage are also edible. *Amaranthus* 'Coral Fountain' is a short specimen that works well in pots and can withstand some drought. The bright little white button flowers of the lippia give the composition a bit of a lift and its attractive leaves give a sugary sweet hit to a salad.

Cultivation and care
I'd recommend placing the containers somewhere open and sunny but with a bit of protection from midday sun. Otherwise they will need watering almost every day when it's particularly hot, which can be an onerous task. Pinch out the tops of the amaranths and nasturtiums occasionally to keep them neat and bushy. A fortnightly feed of seaweed or a nettle and comfrey mix will help the plants remain robust. The *Tetragonolobus purpureus* (asparagus peas) need to be picked almost as soon as the flowers have faded as otherwise they are too fibrous, but you may prefer to leave them for their ornamental value. Picking the viola flowers regularly will help to keep them coming through to the autumn.

Plants

1 *Lactuca sativa* 'Red Iceberg Sioux' Tight, crisp lettuce head with dark-red leaves. Sow every 4-6 weeks. 20cm. RHS H2.

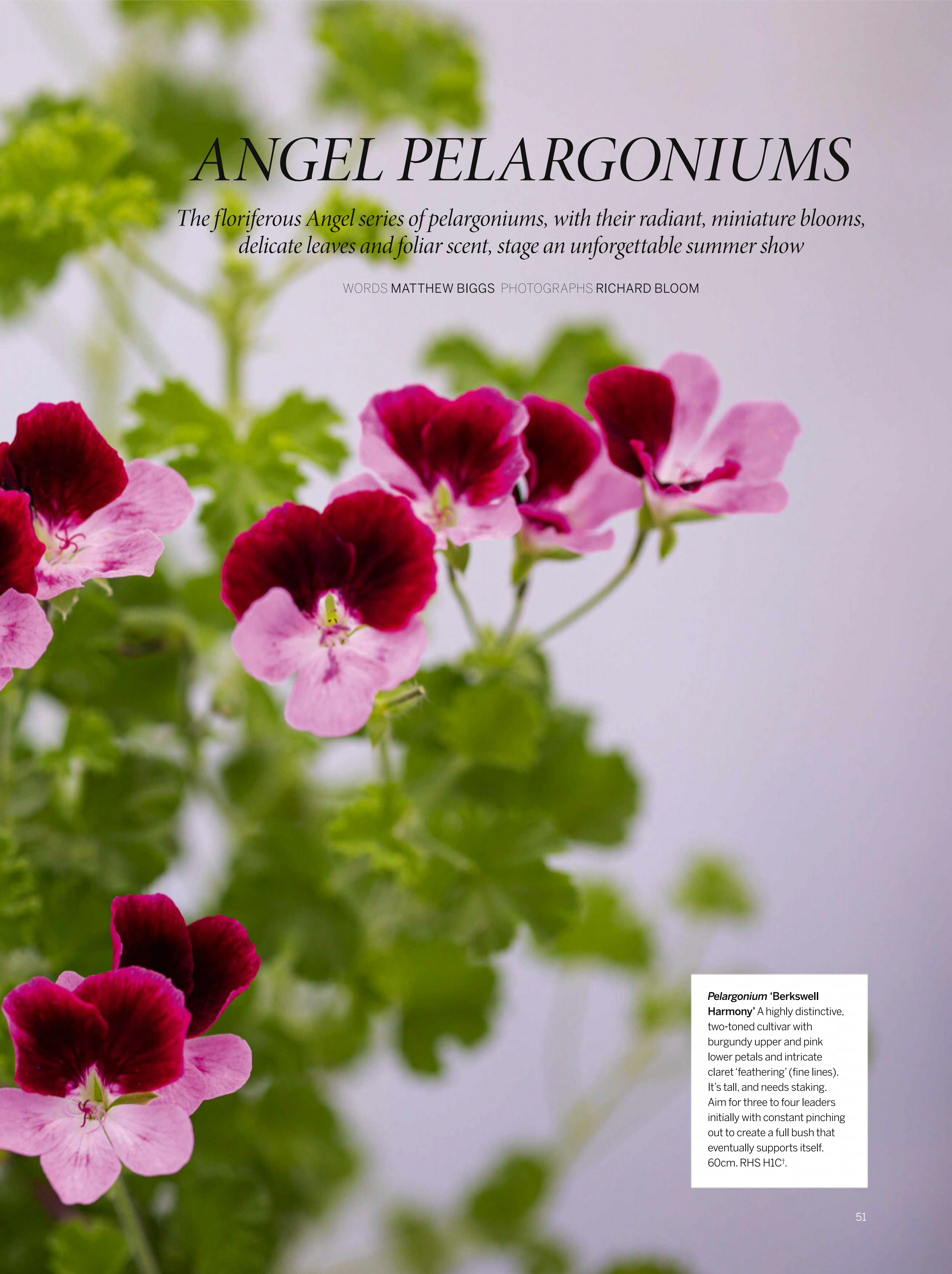
2 *Tetragonolobus purpureus* Deep-red flowers followed by pods, which are best eaten when very small. 30cm. RHS H2.

3 *Lippia dulcis* A trailing plant with attractive, sweet-flavoured foliage. Tender so take cuttings or overwinter in a frost-free place. 30cm. RHS H2.

4 *Tropaeolum majus* 'Blue Pepe' Nasturtium with small, blue-grey, peppery, edible leaves and red flowers. Frost-tender so plant out after mid-May. 30cm. RHS H2.

5 *Viola cornuta* 'Apricot Antique' Edible flowers in tones of copper and peach. Grows easily from seed. 15cm. RHS H3.

6 *Amaranthus caudatus* 'Coral Fountain' Edible, lime-green foliage and a good cutting flower. 1.2m. RHS H3.



ANGEL PELARGONIUMS

The floriferous Angel series of pelargoniums, with their radiant, miniature blooms, delicate leaves and foliar scent, stage an unforgettable summer show

WORDS **MATTHEW BIGGS** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**

***Pelargonium* 'Berkswell Harmony'** A highly distinctive, two-toned cultivar with burgundy upper and pink lower petals and intricate claret 'feathering' (fine lines). It's tall, and needs staking. Aim for three to four leaders initially with constant pinching out to create a full bush that eventually supports itself. 60cm. RHS H1C[†].

The florist's pelargonium has been established as a house and garden favourite since *Pelargonium triste* arrived in Europe in the 1600s and *P. zonale* was grown by the Duchess of Beaufort in the early 1700s. The popular pelargonium *P. peltatum*, commonly but wrongly referred to as the ivy-leaved geranium, arrived in Europe from the Cape of Good Hope via Leiden, in the Netherlands, in 1700 and Francis Masson (1741-1805), who collected in South Africa for the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, added 102 new species.

By the 1820s, pelargoniums were well established in home and garden; the London nursery of James Colvill offered around 500 cultivars and hybrids and Robert Sweet (1783-1835), who used plants from Colvill's collection for breeding, is widely recognised as the pioneer hybridiser in Britain. Regal pelargoniums resulted from a cross between *P. cucullatum* and *P. grandiflorum*, with other species being added to the blend by breeders such as William Bull of the King's Road in Chelsea, London.

By the Victorian era, the old-fashioned Regals had beautiful flowers but were tall and leggy, needing staking and support, so breeders began crossing them with *P. crispum* in the hope of producing plants with a more compact habit. There are no records detailing why *P. crispum* was chosen, but the first to be classified – 'Madam Layal', in France in 1890 – is still in cultivation today. The Regal influence is present in the flower shape, while the foliage and habit are *P. crispum*, which has a citrus fragrance. Angels have small, delicate, crinkled leaves, are dense in growth and very floriferous. First known as dwarf Regals, they became officially known as Angels in Britain and later Pansy Face in the USA. There is no evidence explaining why they are called Angels, other than the fact that pelargoniums often have whimsical names.

Breeders, who are still secretive about their programmes, are predominantly amateur enthusiasts whose fame is restricted to the pelargonium world. In the early years, most breeding centred around the UK and Europe, but there are now breeders in Sweden, Norway, Russia, the USA, Canada, Japan and Australia. Of the 90 or so different cultivars in the Plant Heritage National Collection, the majority are very modern, and they are often named as a series. Ken Dymond, a prolific breeder, introduced the Quantock cultivars. One seedling raised from one of his cultivars and named for him is 'Quantock Double Dymond' a dwarf, double, burgundy-flowered Angel – the only one of its kind in the world. Elsewhere, Malcolm and Judith Harris have bred the Berkswell cultivars, named for the West Midlands village where they lived.

Angels range in size, from dwarf, compact forms that tumble over the edge of pots, such as 'Jer'Rey' with its rich-purple flowers edged with crimson (bred by J Kapac in Southern California), to 'Imperial Butterfly', a simple white with purple feathering (fine lines) on the upper petals, with good foliar fragrance and a neat, compact habit, which in time can reach 1.2m tall. There is also a cascading cultivar, 'Quantock May', which is ideal for growing in long toms and hanging baskets.

Angel pelargoniums are easy to grow. The key is to provide at least 2.5cm of space around them to allow good airflow. They should be planted individually in pots – place too many plants around them and they die back. In warmer climates they can be grown outdoors all year round, and in cool temperate locations they make wonderful outdoor summer displays. The flower colours range through shades of rich burgundy to cerise, blackcurrant, pink, white and coral. Surprisingly for a pelargonium, there are no reds; Angels are the only group lacking this traditional colour. It remains the Angel enthusiast's holy grail, proving that a breeder's work is never done. ❑

• Matthew Biggs is a Kew-trained gardener and presenter. His recommendations for the best Angel pelargoniums can be found over the next five pages.

PLANT PROFILE

What Introduced in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Angel pelargoniums, are smaller versions of Regal pelargoniums, with small, round, viola-like, serrated leaves and much smaller flowers. Although they generally have a more compact and bushy habit there is one lax cultivar that works well in hanging baskets and pots.

Origins The *Pelargonium* genus of around 220 species within the family Geraniaceae, is mainly from South Africa but also found in the eastern Mediterranean, Turkey, southern Australia and Tasmania. The Angel pelargoniums are mostly bred from *P. crispum* from South Africa.

Season Spring to autumn in cool temperate climates; can be year-round depending on the growing conditions and location.

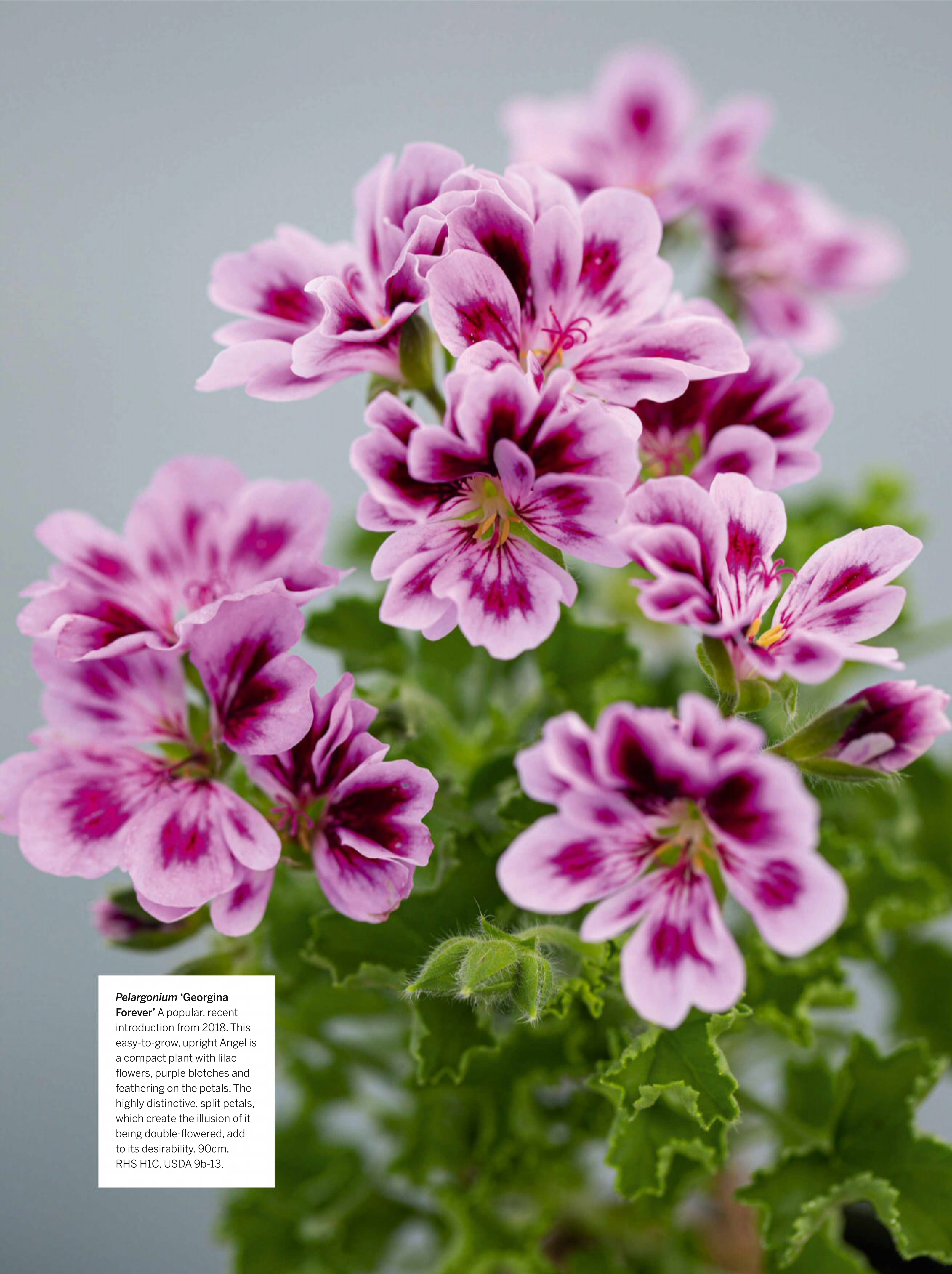
Size Variable, from low, compact and bushy, to around 90cm tall.

Conditions Cool and dry over winter, hot sunshine in summer.

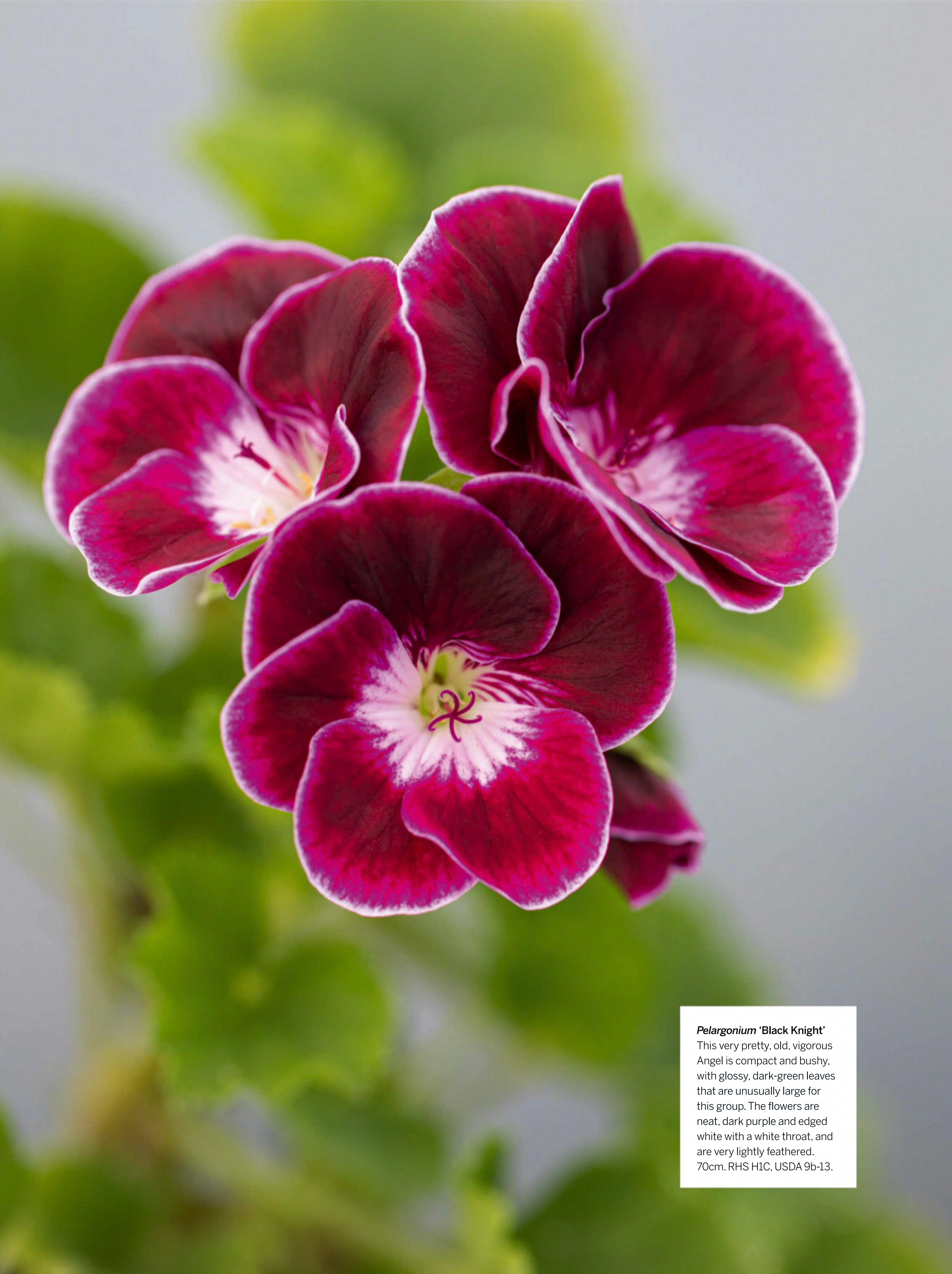
Hardiness All plants in this group have a hardiness rating of H1C, meaning they can be grown outdoors in summer but need to be overwintered in a heated glasshouse, and are suitable for gardens in USDA zones 9b to 13.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society.

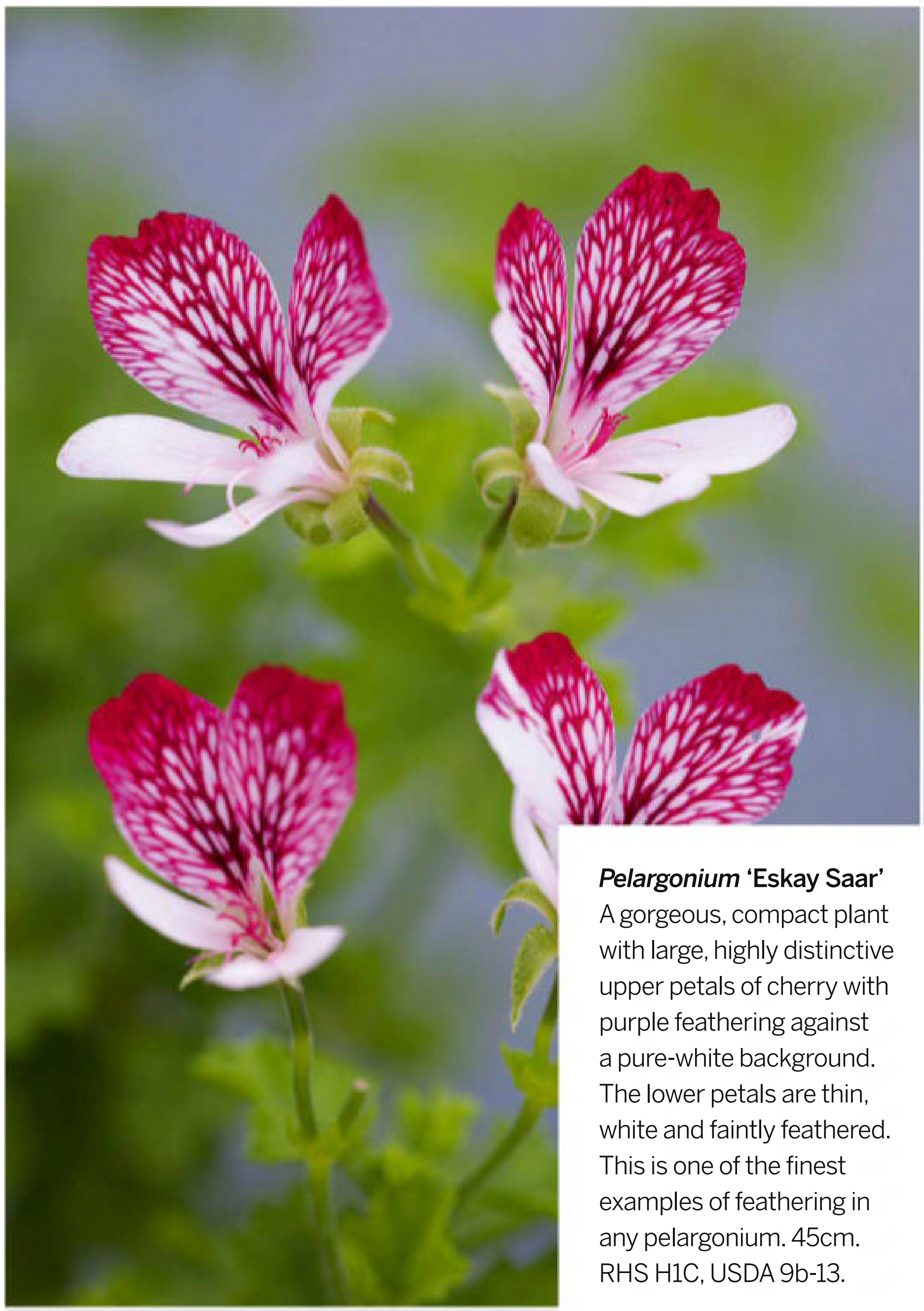
†Hardiness ratings given where available.



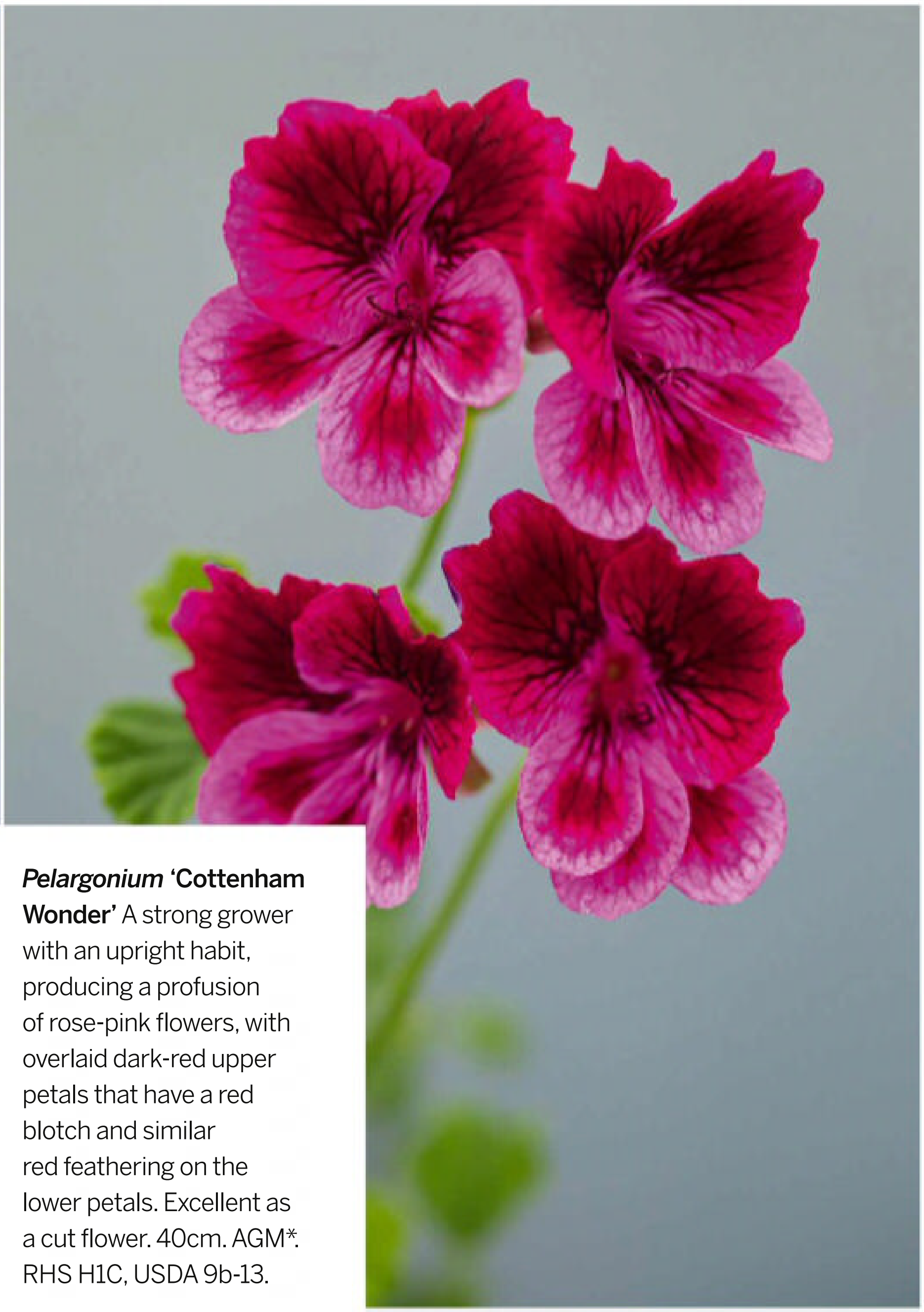
***Pelargonium* 'Georgina Forever'** A popular, recent introduction from 2018. This easy-to-grow, upright Angel is a compact plant with lilac flowers, purple blotches and feathering on the petals. The highly distinctive, split petals, which create the illusion of it being double-flowered, add to its desirability. 90cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



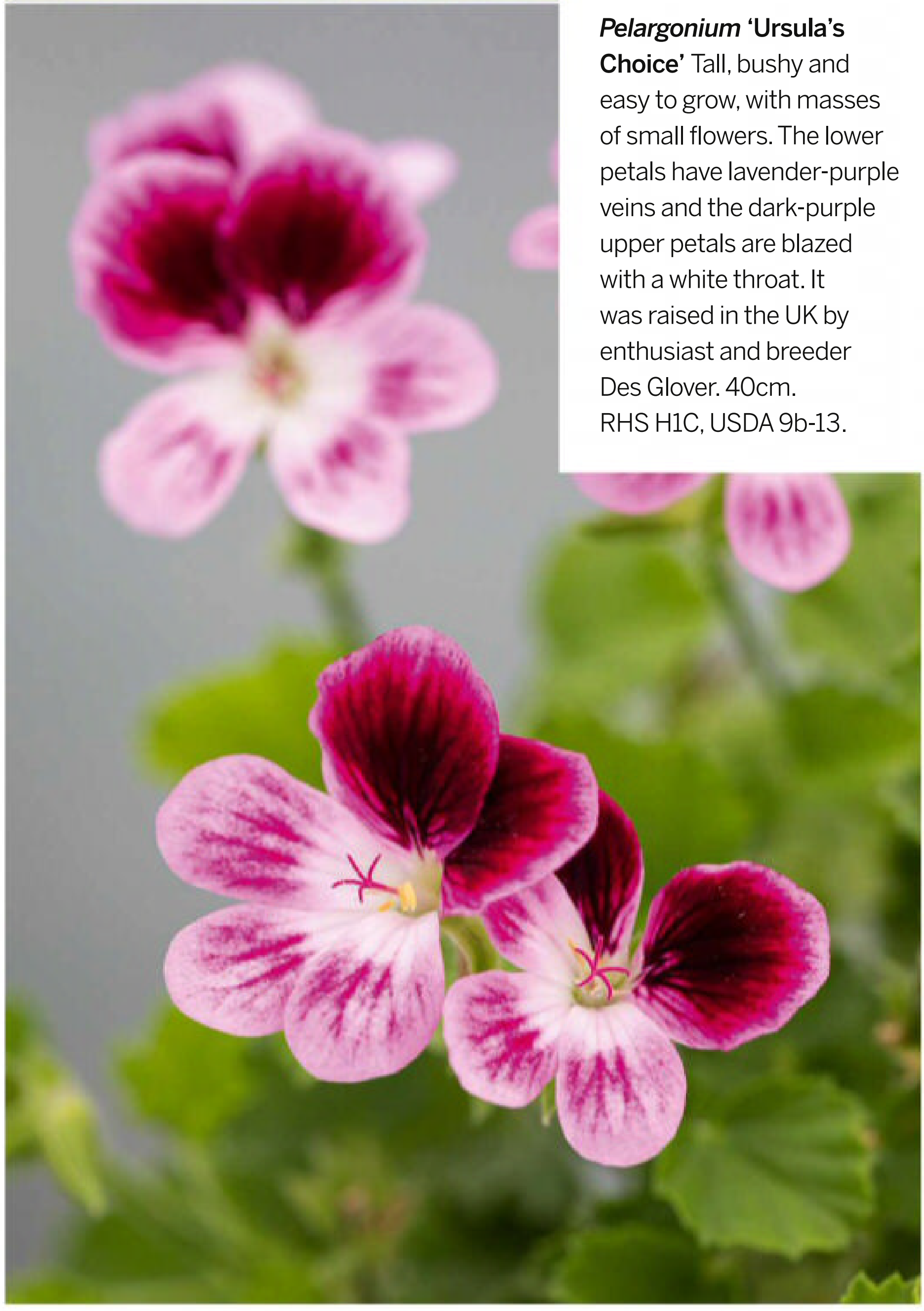
Pelargonium **'Black Knight'**
This very pretty, old, vigorous Angel is compact and bushy, with glossy, dark-green leaves that are unusually large for this group. The flowers are neat, dark purple and edged white with a white throat, and are very lightly feathered. 70cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



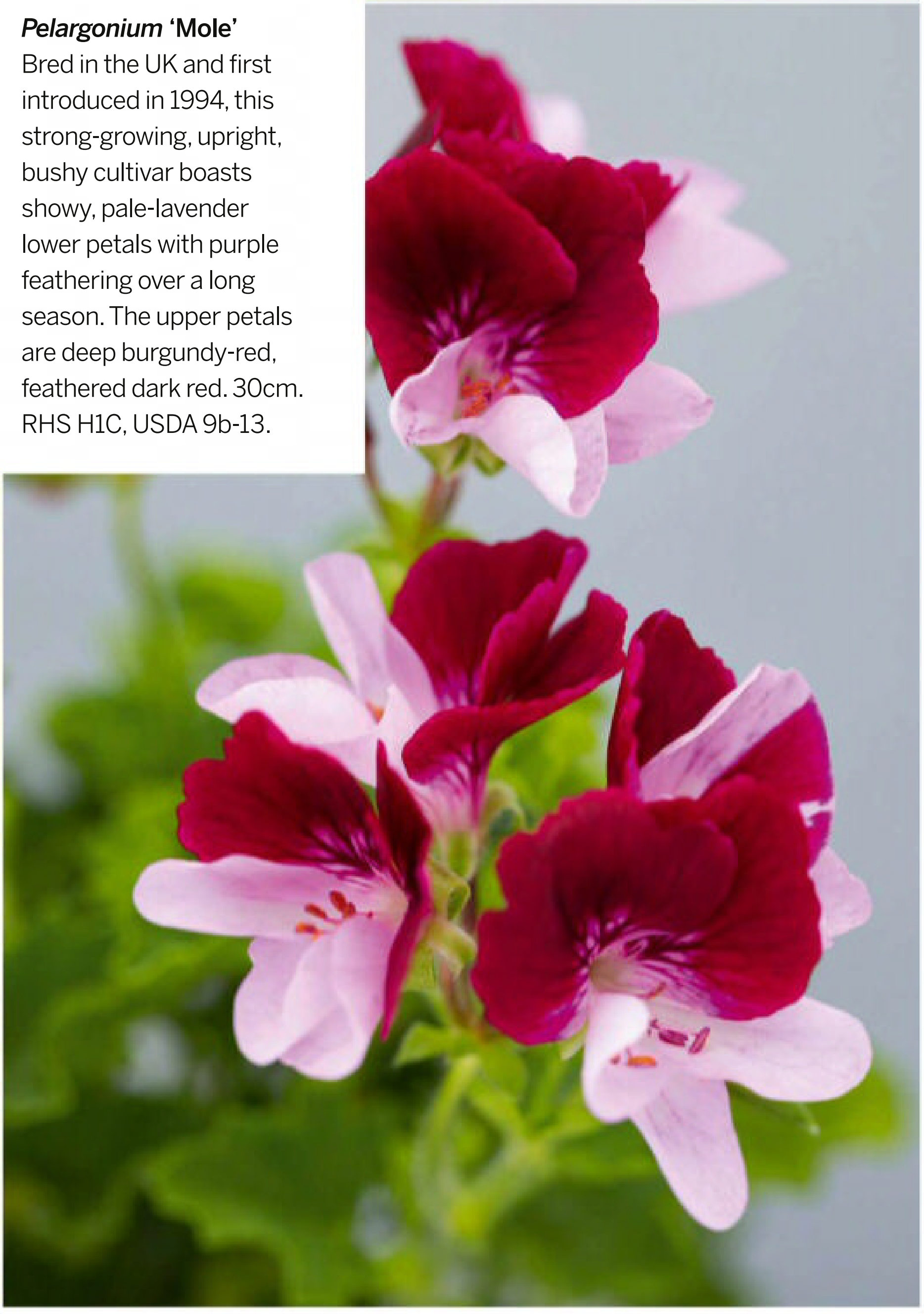
***Pelargonium* 'Eskay Saar'** A gorgeous, compact plant with large, highly distinctive upper petals of cherry with purple feathering against a pure-white background. The lower petals are thin, white and faintly feathered. This is one of the finest examples of feathering in any pelargonium. 45cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



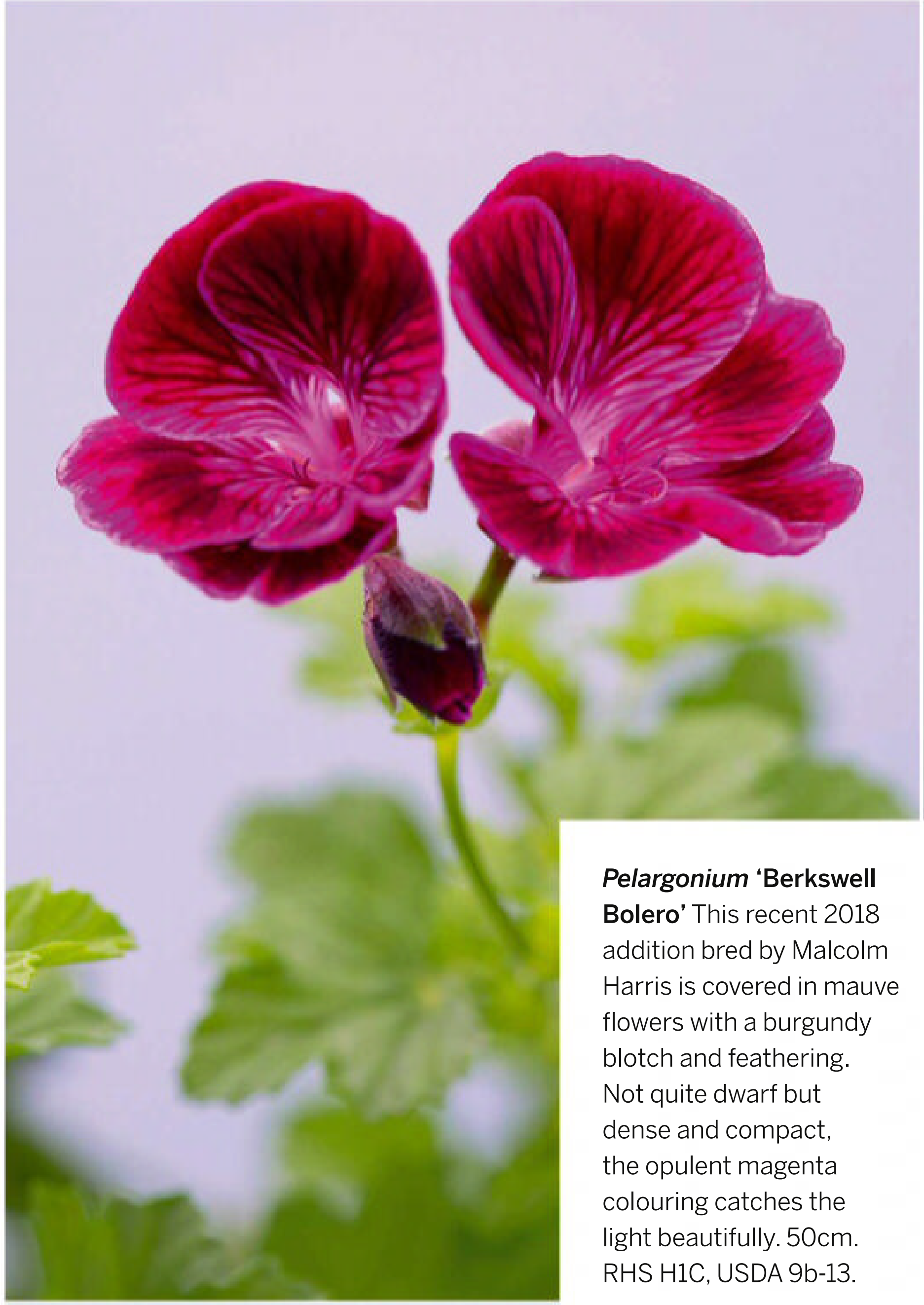
***Pelargonium* 'Cottenham Wonder'** A strong grower with an upright habit, producing a profusion of rose-pink flowers, with overlaid dark-red upper petals that have a red blotch and similar red feathering on the lower petals. Excellent as a cut flower. 40cm. AGM*. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



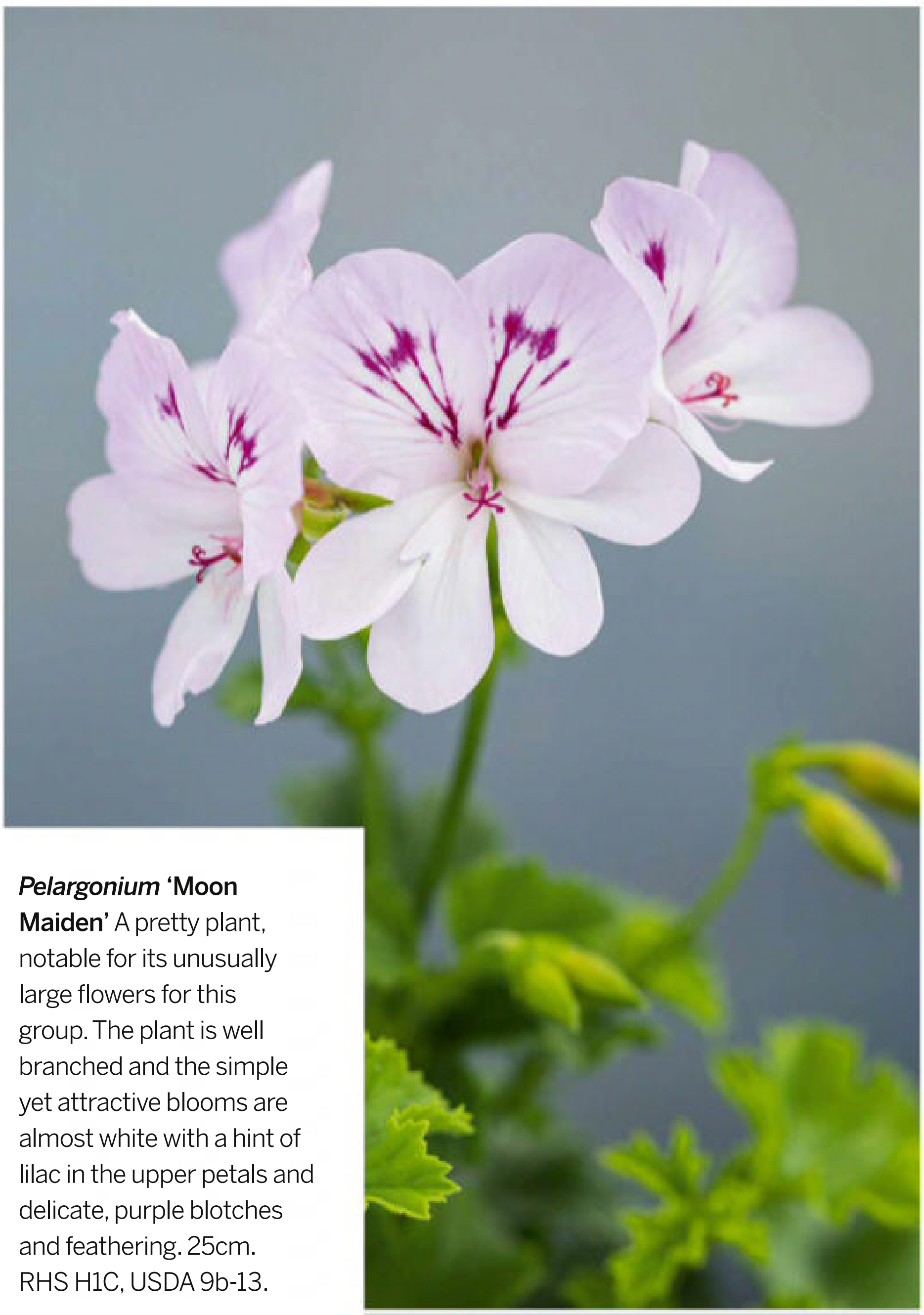
***Pelargonium* 'Ursula's Choice'** Tall, bushy and easy to grow, with masses of small flowers. The lower petals have lavender-purple veins and the dark-purple upper petals are blazed with a white throat. It was raised in the UK by enthusiast and breeder Des Glover. 40cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



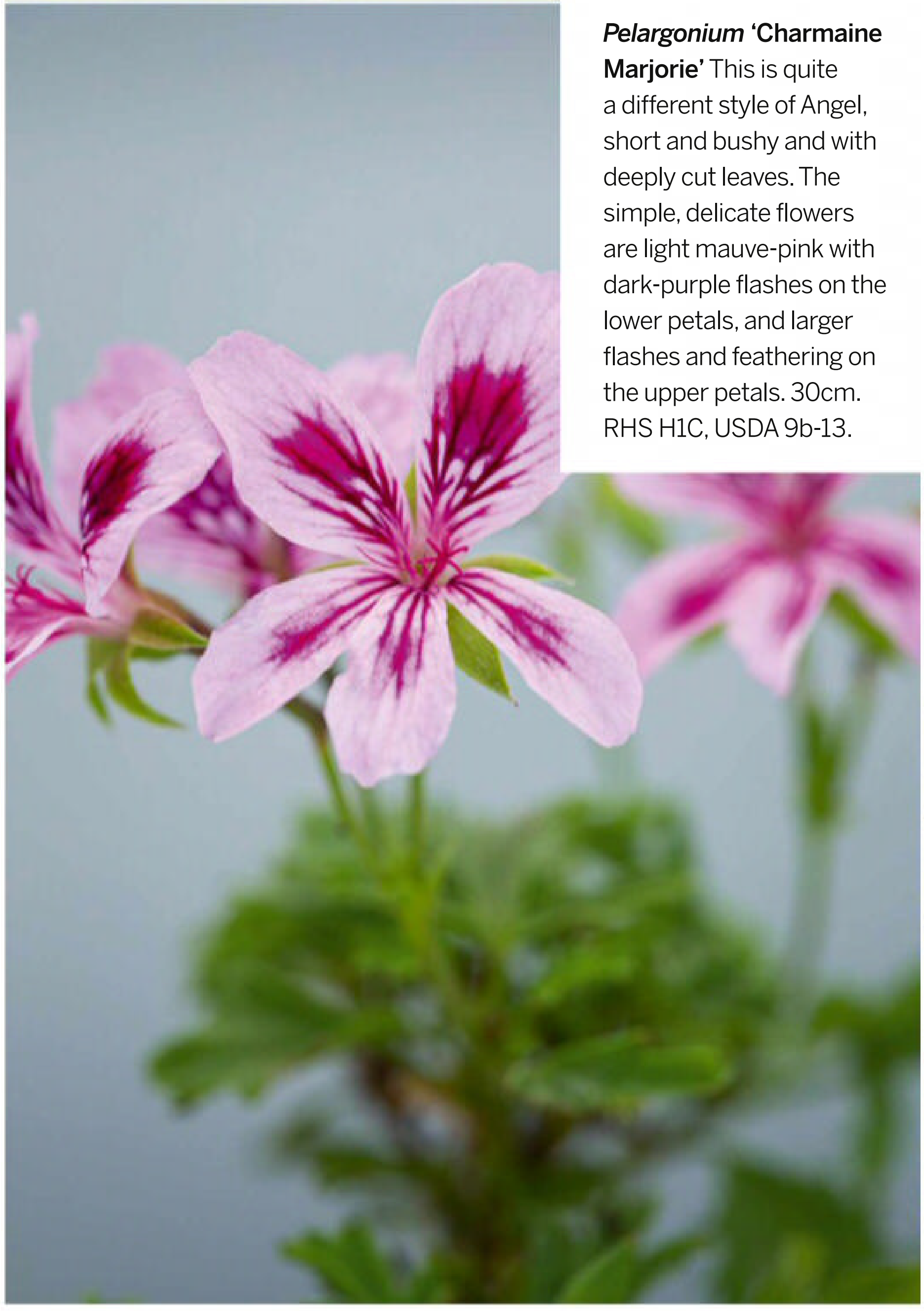
***Pelargonium* 'Mole'** Bred in the UK and first introduced in 1994, this strong-growing, upright, bushy cultivar boasts showy, pale-lavender lower petals with purple feathering over a long season. The upper petals are deep burgundy-red, feathered dark red. 30cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



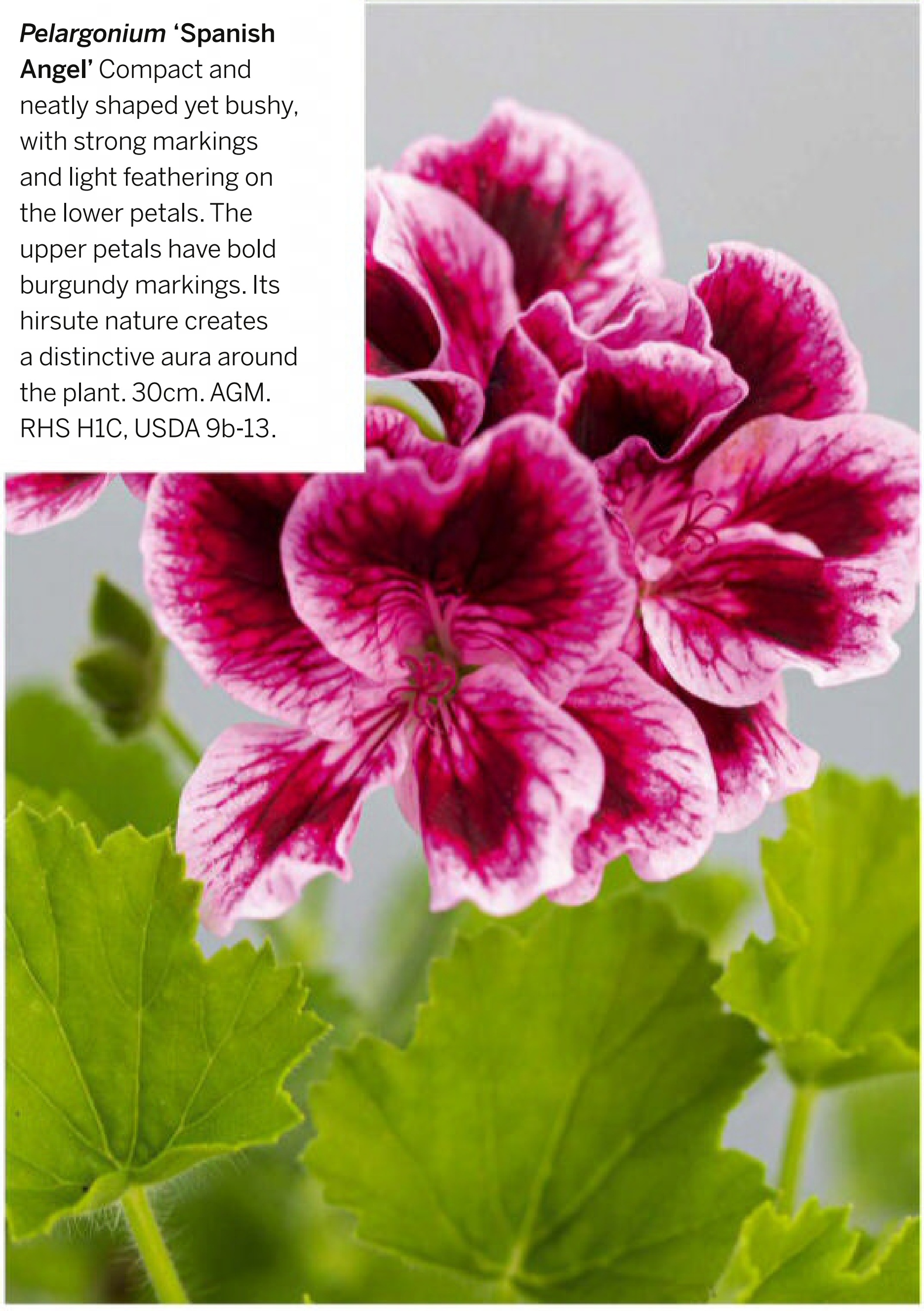
***Pelargonium* 'Berkswell Bolero'** This recent 2018 addition bred by Malcolm Harris is covered in mauve flowers with a burgundy blotch and feathering. Not quite dwarf but dense and compact, the opulent magenta colouring catches the light beautifully. 50cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



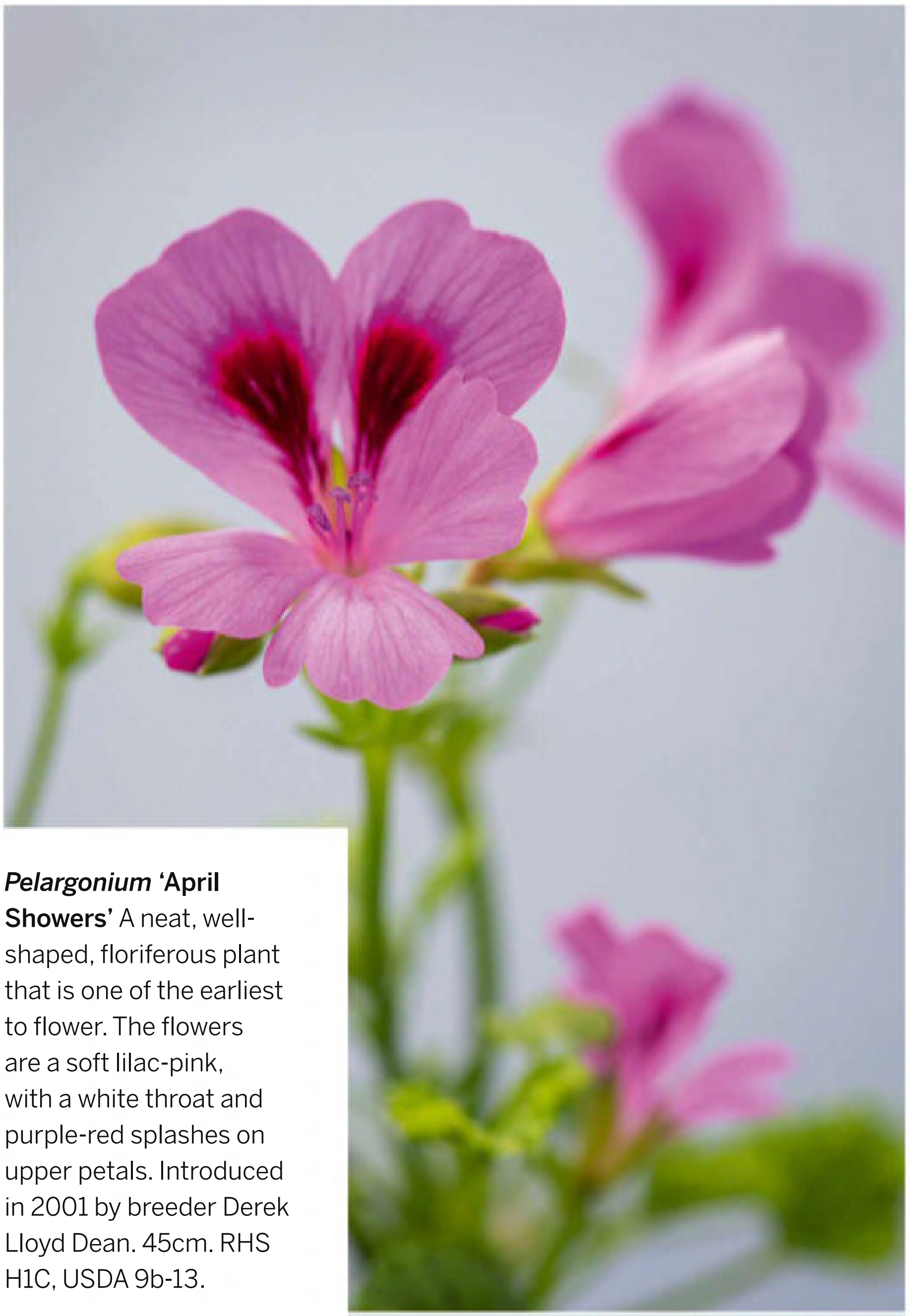
***Pelargonium* 'Moon Maiden'** A pretty plant, notable for its unusually large flowers for this group. The plant is well branched and the simple yet attractive blooms are almost white with a hint of lilac in the upper petals and delicate, purple blotches and feathering. 25cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



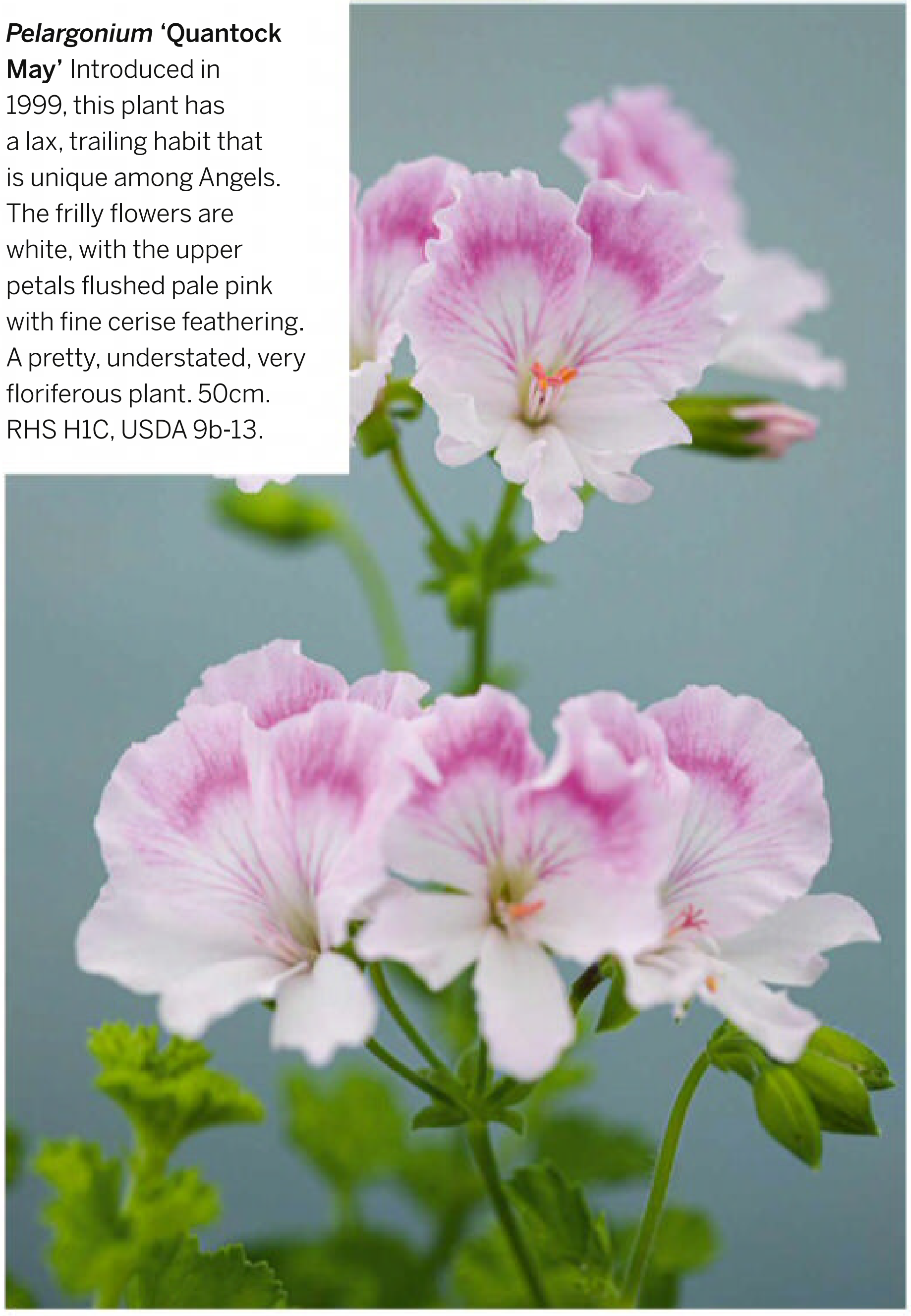
***Pelargonium* 'Charmaine Marjorie'** This is quite a different style of Angel, short and bushy and with deeply cut leaves. The simple, delicate flowers are light mauve-pink with dark-purple flashes on the lower petals, and larger flashes and feathering on the upper petals. 30cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



***Pelargonium* 'Spanish Angel'** Compact and neatly shaped yet bushy, with strong markings and light feathering on the lower petals. The upper petals have bold burgundy markings. Its hirsute nature creates a distinctive aura around the plant. 30cm. AGM. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



Pelargonium 'April Showers' A neat, well-shaped, floriferous plant that is one of the earliest to flower. The flowers are a soft lilac-pink, with a white throat and purple-red splashes on upper petals. Introduced in 2001 by breeder Derek Lloyd Dean. 45cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.



Pelargonium 'Quantock May' Introduced in 1999, this plant has a lax, trailing habit that is unique among Angels. The frilly flowers are white, with the upper petals flushed pale pink with fine cerise feathering. A pretty, understated, very floriferous plant. 50cm. RHS H1C, USDA 9b-13.

MANY THANKS TO FIBREX NURSERIES IN WARWICKSHIRE WHERE THESE IMAGES WERE TAKEN

Cultivation

Angel pelargoniums grow very happily in peat-free compost, or if you prefer in a 50:50 mix of multi-purpose compost and peat-free John Innes No. 2. Grow them in terracotta pots. Err on the dry side when watering and avoid overwatering; soak the root ball, and allow the compost to dry out before watering again. For the best floral displays, feed with half-strength tomato feed or other high-potash feed every time you water during active growth. Pinching out is essential to create dense, bushy plants. Always leave three active nodes, then pinch out with your thumb and fingernail or use sharp scissors.

Angels need as much light as possible, but should be out of direct sunlight when grown under glass, to avoid scorching. Plants grown outdoors need direct sunshine to flourish. As a minimum, keep plants free from frosts over the winter, but ideally they should be at just above 5ºC. Keep the root ball dry to avoid root rot. In cool conditions, remove the leaves, leaving bare stems. This improves air circulation around the plants, and watering is unnecessary.

Start to encourage growth in mid-spring with a little water, gradually increasing the volume as growth increases. Once the plants have started growing, feed with half-strength general fertiliser, then change to high-potash tomato fertiliser once they are in active growth. Where die back occurs, cut stems back to a leaf joint using a sharp knife or secateurs.

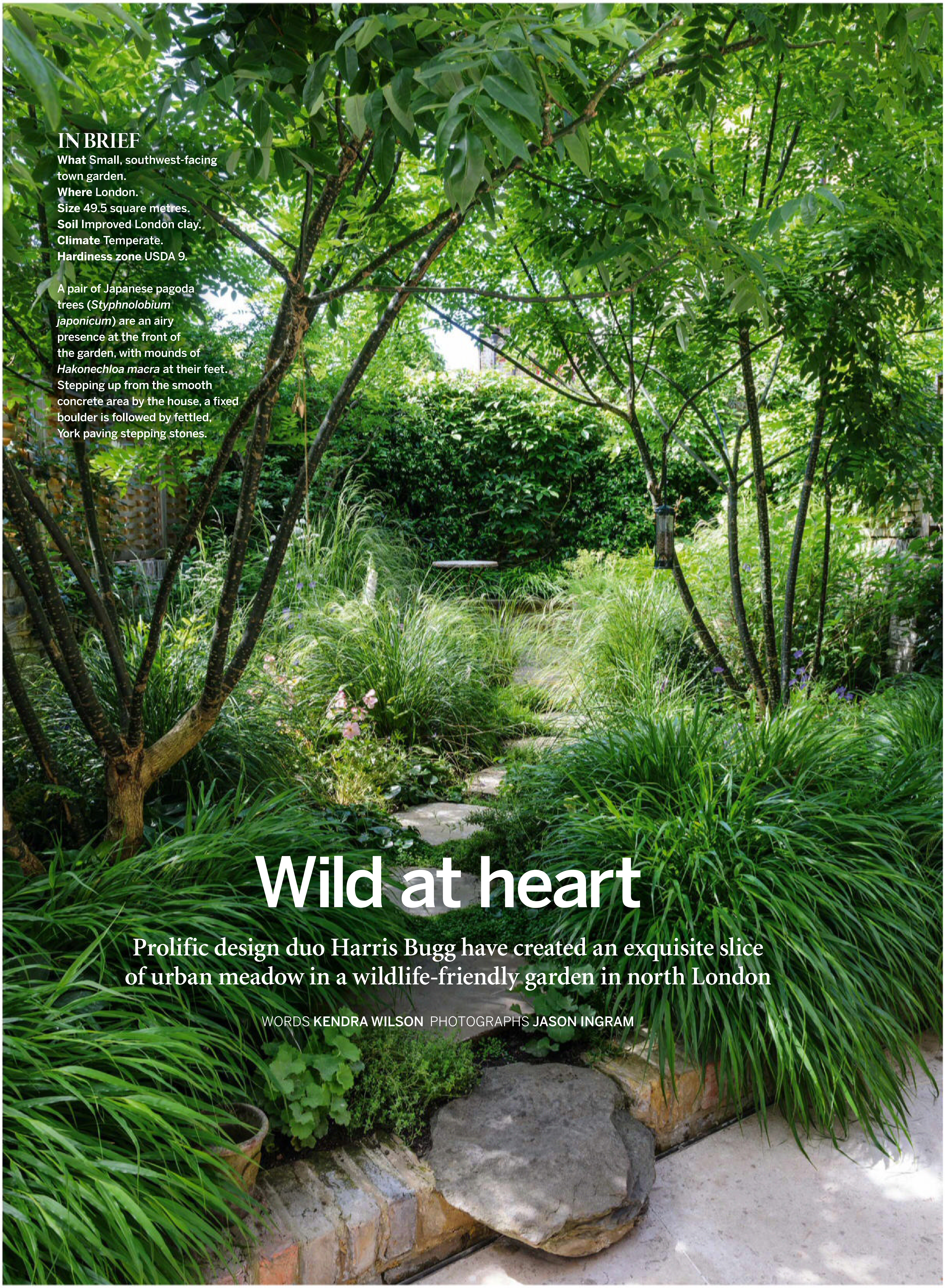
Plant associations

Given their need for good air circulation, as well as their habit and profusion of flowers, pelargoniums make ideal specimen plants. Grow them in individual pots on tiered displays or steps leading to a sunny front door; against brick or natural stone; atop plinths in classical or contemporary pots; or in table displays. They associate well with plants with silvery or grey foliage, including the dark purple-blue flowered *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Peter Pan', *Helichrysum*, *Senecio cineraria* 'Silver Dust', clipped *Santolina chamaecyparissus* or *Dichondra argentea* 'Silver Falls'. They also look sumptuous against plants with darker foliage, such as *Ophiopogon planiscapus* 'Kokuryu', or in contrast with *Calibrachoa* Can-can Double Blue. Dark evergreens, such as *Hedera helix* 'Baltica' or *Taxus baccata,* complement or contrast.

Where to see and buy

- **Mr D Lloyd Dean***
  8 Lynwood Close, South
  Harrow, Middlesex HA2 9PR.
  Open by appointment only.
  To arrange a visit email
  lloyddean1943@gmail.com
- **Fibrex Nurseries**
  Honeybourne Road,
  Pebworth,
  Stratford-upon-Avon,
  Warwickshire CV37 8XP.
  Tel 01789 720788,
  fibrex.co.uk
- **Woottens of Wenhaston**
  The Iris Field, Hall
  Road, Wenhaston,
  Suffolk IP19 9HF.
  Tel 01502 478258,
  woottensplants.com

*National Collection holder



IN BRIEF

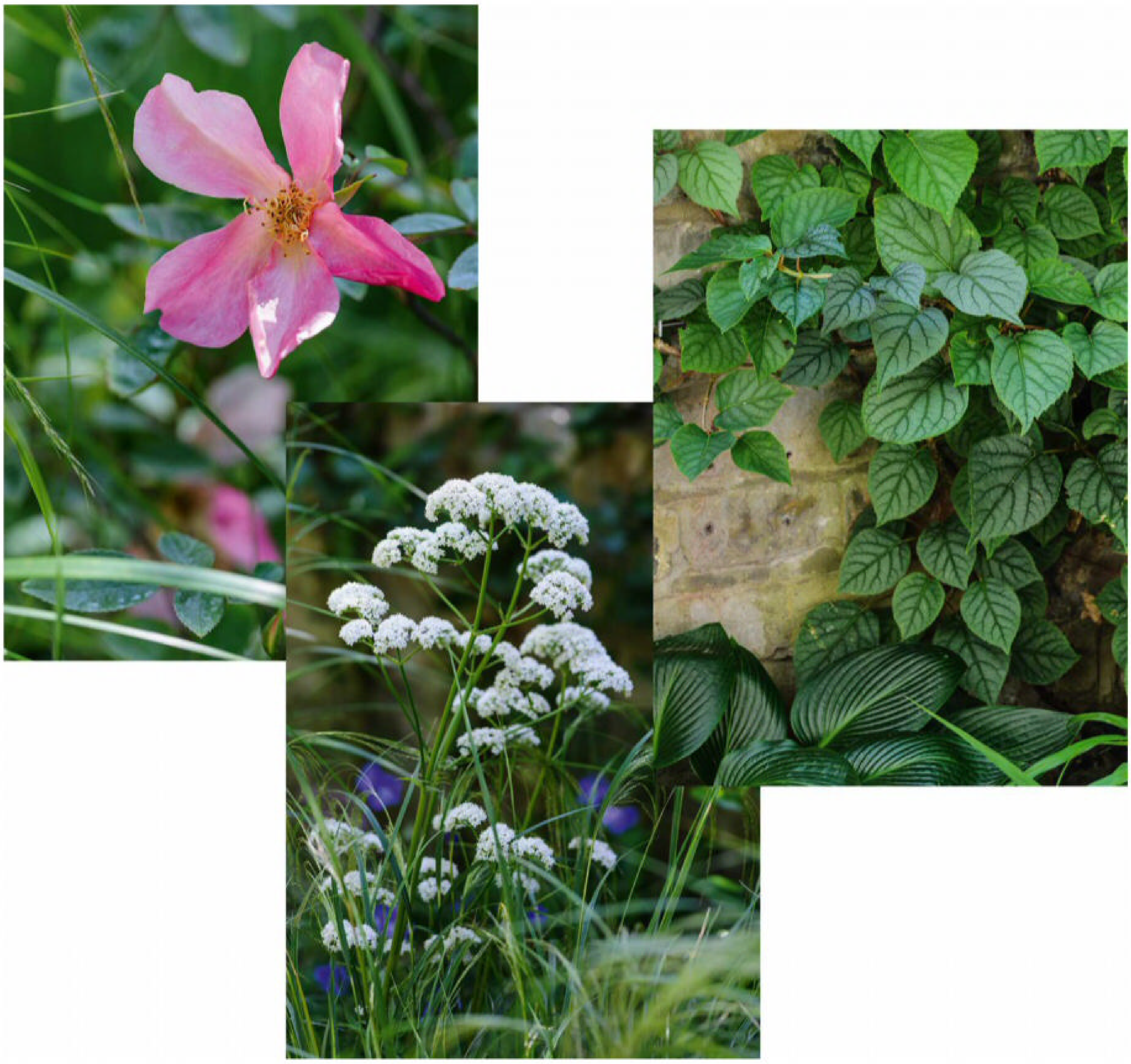
What Small, southwest-facing town garden.
Where London.
Size 49.5 square metres.
Soil Improved London clay.
Climate Temperate.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

A pair of Japanese pagoda trees (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) are an airy presence at the front of the garden, with mounds of *Hakonechloa macra* at their feet. Stepping up from the smooth concrete area by the house, a fixed boulder is followed by fettled, York paving stepping stones.

Wild at heart

Prolific design duo Harris Bugg have created an exquisite slice of urban meadow in a wildlife-friendly garden in north London

WORDS **KENDRA WILSON** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**



I love this garden,” says Charlotte Harris of design duo Harris Bugg, who, between Charlotte in London and Hugo Bugg in Exeter, take on a dizzying variety of projects, of every size and description. Not to mention their upcoming Main Avenue show garden for this year’s RHS Chelsea Flower Show. Tucked away behind a north London terrace, this is one of the pair’s smaller gardens, a microcosm of their focus on texture and shape, with imaginative hard landscaping.

“Looseness is a word that was used a lot during the planning,” Charlotte recalls as she describes the client’s brief. “He wanted something wild, like a meadow in the back garden.” It’s music to a designer’s ears, she notes, when clients with small gardens do not ask for a lawn. Instead, the garden has ‘moments’ during the day, in response to the sun’s progress; an antique table towards the back is uncluttered by chairs, and provides a focus, if not a destination, for the winding path of stepping stones that begin at the garden’s second level.

The combined canopies of a pair of Japanese pagoda trees (*Styphnolobium japonicum*) create a sense of privacy outside the garden room of the house, throwing a bit of shade over the front of this refined urban meadow. Fresh-green rugs of *Hakonechloa macra* cheerfully flop over edges, and are joined further in by plants that are generally more obliging than aggressive. Evergreen *Anemanthele lessoniana* (pheasant grass) can get too full, but is easily thinned by running one’s fingers through it, in the manner of a razor comb.

“I like the idea that things are moving around and are not too controlled in here,” says Charlotte of this year-old garden. The intention is to keep a sense of delicacy. White foxgloves (*Digitalis purpurea* ‘Dalmatian White’) are expected to spread around, with meadow cranesbill (*Geranium* ‘Brookside’) rambling through. Common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*) has a reputation for rampant behaviour, but it can easily be thinned as it threads its way through this London plot.

“You want certain things to be thuggish, so that they can withhold a kicking next to paths,” says Charlotte. To this end, she and Hugo have used *Alchemilla erythropoda*, which is “really pretty” but tough like *Alchemilla mollis*. Dense, carpeting *Soleirolia soleirolii* ▷

Above from left to right

***Rosa* x *odorata* ‘Mutabilis’** A signature Harris Bugg plant, valued not only for its changing hues in the peach-pink spectrum but also the sense of delicate wildness that it brings.

Valeriana officinalis gives height to a meadow-like planting, growing to 1m at least, with small, terminal flowers of white or palest pink. Needs thinning to keep it in check.

Schizophragma hydrangeoides, the Japanese hydrangea vine, is less vigorous than climbing hydrangea, with more distinctive foliage and flowers. Seen here in semi-shade with *Hosta* ‘Devon Green’.

Stems of *Styphnolobium japonicum* are a striking green, with markings that bear some resemblance to those of cherry. The intention is to maintain a vase structure with the stems, so that they can be looked through. Side shoots that are lower down the stems are pruned out in winter.

> The word 'looseness' was used a lot during planning. I like the idea that things move around and are not too controlled

Above from left to right

Zanthoxylum simulans The Sichuan pepper is another Harris Bugg favourite, which they have also used in the new, walled kitchen garden at RHS Garden Bridgewater.

***Digitalis purpurea* 'Dalmation White'** will soon be spreading down the middle of this meadow garden of sun and dappled shade.

Perennial grass *Hakonechloa macra* provides understorey texture for this shady corner, along with *Hosta* 'Devon Green', wild strawberries (*Fragaria vesca*) and mind-your-own-business (*Soleirolia soleirolii*).

▷ (mind-your-own-business) has also been used in shade: "It's such a hooligan but felt right here, with the stepping stones."

Leftover York stone slabs have been used at the back, fitted together by contractor Mark Whyman, in a way that is more crazy-paving than modular, thus aiding the flow of planting. At the front, a sourced boulder reaches towards limestone-paving smoothness. This sense of warm elegance extends to the woven oak trellis: "In this tiny slice of meadow, we wanted something that was softer than slatted trellising," says Charlotte. The result is a contemporary nod to woven hazel.

Reports from the owner suggest that this garden is constantly visited by local wildlife, with squirrels competing for wild strawberries. It is chemical-free, and the hostas show no sign of snail damage. "This is entirely because there is a lot of bird life in here," says Charlotte. "It's a very happy little garden." ■

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Charlotte and Hugo's work at **harrisbugg.com**

Garden foraging

Part of the client's brief for Harris Bugg Studio was that he wanted his urban meadow to have an edible element. Edgings of wild strawberries and prostrate rosemary provide texture and an effective groundcover as well as being harvestable. Herbs, in sunny areas and in pots, include thyme, fennel, lemon verbena, upright rosemary and loose shrubs of bay.

Other good-value plants include Sichuan pepper (*Zanthoxylum simulans*): "It has a really nice filigree quality, then you get the pepper at the end of the season," says Charlotte. A broad-leaved sausage vine (*Holboellia latifolia*) has enthusiastically covered the back wall, producing strange-looking but palatable fruit in autumn.

HORTICULTURAL WHO'S WHO

GILL HODGSON

The creator of Flowers from the Farm on her passion for local, seasonal blooms, the upsides of lockdown and the enduring capacity of cut flowers to say it all

WORDS CLAIRE MASSET PORTRAIT CHARLIE HOPKINSON

On Gill Hodgson's Instagram feed is a black-and-white photo of a little girl. It shows Gill aged five, clutching a bunch of flowers on her parents' farm in the late 1950s. 'I still live on the same farm and my hands are still full of flowers,' reads the caption. Despite having stayed in the "very rural" East Riding of Yorkshire all her life, Gill has had an impact throughout Britain. And it's all down to those flowers.

Ten years ago, she created Flowers from the Farm, a not-for-profit co-operative of British cut-flower growers. Gill can't quite believe that her fledgling organisation now has around 1,000 members across the country, stretching from the Scottish Highlands to the Isles of Scilly. As Honorary President, she oversees a network of regional organisers – volunteers united by a passion for cut flowers and a wish to spread the word about local, seasonal blooms.

> IT RAINS WHEN IT SHOULDN'T, YOUR NAILS GET BROKEN AND YOU DEVELOP THIS WIND-BLOWN SKIN

What made Gill set up Flowers from the Farm? As usual with most things, the seed was sown in childhood. "Mum was a great gardener. She craftily got me involved with the gardening, turning it into a game. I just picked things up by osmosis." As well as looking after the garden and raising four children, Gill spent the bulk of her professional life working on the farm. It wasn't until her mid-fifties that she took her first steps in the cut-flower business. "I started by putting out bunches at the end of the drive. After a couple of years, I decided to go to my local farmers' market. When you sell at the farm gate you don't see the customers, but the market was a real eye-opener. People were picking up the flowers, putting their noses in a bunch, and then this look of joy would come across their face."

Searching for camaraderie and cut-flower know-how, Gill trawled the web for a group of people growing and selling flowers – but didn't find one. So one morning, "between one bite of toast and the next", she decided to create her own. "I got in touch with my local co-operative society. They gave me information on how to set up a mutually beneficial group. I then put out a press release. It must have been a slow news week because the *Yorkshire Post* picked it up," she jokes. "Then the local BBC came and did some filming. Next thing I knew I was offered a stand at the Great Yorkshire Show. I had a ball. A couple of people who joined Flowers from the Farm that weekend are still members."

Flowers from the Farm is open to anyone, whatever the size of their plot. "It could be a backyard or an allotment," Gill explains. "We even have a few guerrilla gardeners." They knock on people's doors and offer to look after the garden in exchange for growing flowers.

As you'd expect from a farmer, Gill is practical and down to earth and has great business sense – qualities you need for success in the cut-flower market. "A lot of people have a rose-tinted view of what it's like – usually involving a Cath Kidston pinafore, a trug and some flowery secateurs. It's not like that. It rains when it shouldn't. Your nails get broken and you develop this wind-blown skin."

Gill's proudest moment was when Flowers from the Farm won an RHS Chelsea Flower Show Gold Medal in 2018. With no sponsor and a tiny budget, she and 100 volunteers rallied together to create the most staggeringly pretty stand: a horse and cart proudly displaying more than 14,000 flower stems.

Nowadays, Gill leaves the running of the organisation to others and has reduced her flower-farming business (known as Fieldhouse Flowers) to a third of an acre. "When I get to 70, I thought I would retire, but I'm not sure I will." She loves what she does and is delighted by the success of Flowers from the Farm. "It isn't just a fad. There was time when jam jars and bunting were all the rage. As if British flowers could only sit in a jam jar." While the coronavirus lockdown put a pause to wedding flowers, it saw lots of people buying local flowers for the first time. "It was wonderful because it saved a lot of people's businesses. Flowers will do for any occasion and for whatever you want to say, whether it's 'I'm sorry', 'I miss you', 'I love you', or 'Happy Birthday'. I can't think of anything else that works in this way."

At the beginning of the lockdown, Gill swapped houses with her daughter and son-in-law. They are now in the family farm and she lives 20 yards away in a converted granary. She can look across the courtyard to their house. Her four grandchildren – all aged under five – use her house (and her fridge) as an extension of their own. What with flowers and grandchildren, Gill has her hands full – just like she did all those years ago. ■

USEFUL INFORMATION

Fieldhouse Flowers, The Granary, Field House Farm, Everingham,
East Yorkshire YO42 4LH. Tel 07803 127081, fieldhouseflowers.co.uk

Flowers From the Farm celebrates its tenth anniversary this year. Its annual Flower Farmers' Big Weekend takes place 13-15 August. flowersfromthefarm.co.uk/flower-farmers-big-weekend-2021

IN BRIEF

What Private family garden.
Where Hampshire.
Size Eight acres in total, including a one-and-a-half acre ornamental garden.
Soil Silty loam that is prone to waterlogging.
Climate Temperate, but with strong westerly winds.
Hardiness zone USDA 8.

The house sits comfortably in its setting, thanks to the highly textured gardens enclosing it. Vertical *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta' contrasts with plump balls of clipped yew, the bold daisies of *Echinacea purpurea* 'White Swan' and lacy, blue *Salvia* 'Blue Spire', formerly *Perovskia* 'Blue Spire'.

Visual effects

Thanks to Jane Brown's technical design skills, a Hampshire garden of timeless charm is firmly anchored in its stunning surroundings

WORDS **JODIE JONES** PHOTOGRAPHS **CLAIRE TAKACS**

My initial brief was to hide the house, although at that point the house only existed in a set of architectural plans," says designer Jane Brown, walking round the Hampshire garden she has been working on for ten years. It shows unusual foresight for a client to start thinking about their garden at such an early stage, but, says Jane, "the owners are both designers specialising in interior lighting, so they have a good eye and really care about details. They also lived in the house next door for many years and always coveted the view from this piece of land." When they got the chance to turn fantasy into reality they wanted to create something really special, with a house built in brick, flint and stone, with steeply pitched tiled roofs and large windows with a faintly Gothic detail in the glazing bars. "It is beautiful, but, in a sea of post-construction devastation, it looked enormous," says Jane.

Her plan from the outset was visually to anchor the house in the surrounding countryside while making the most of its lovely views. "We decided to incorporate lots of trees into a series of heavily planted gardens. The owners are keen gardeners and wanted colour, texture and year-round interest. But they are also very sociable and asked for lots of different outdoor living spaces where they could spend time with friends and their three grown-up children, who visit regularly."

It was a massive undertaking, and although a full masterplan was drawn up at the outset, it was implemented in stages, as resources allowed. "Huge effort went into getting the foundations right, which wasn't easy because the site slopes away quite steeply to the west," says Jane. The best views are to the north, so Jane kept the garden on this rear side of the house relatively open. There is a stone terrace with plenty of space for socialising, and broad, shallow steps leading down to a wide lawn that was specifically proportioned to accommodate a large marquee for formal entertaining.

"The garden comes to a bulge here, which I disguised by planting an avenue of clipped hawthorn trees within box-edged beds that frames the view. At the bulge in the boundary I put a ha-ha to invisibly divide the garden proper from the neighbouring field with its sheep," says Jane. It is a tremendously effective bit of visual trickery, typical of Jane's great skill with the technicalities of garden design.

Equally clever and understated is the brick and flint wall on one side of the Ornamental Garden. Like the house, it appears to have been there forever, but was dreamed up to conceal a sharp slope away from the house. "It gives a sense of enclosure in a part of the garden that could otherwise have felt exposed, and was designed to provide a backdrop for a greenhouse, although that wasn't installed for several more years, while the owners got the main plantings established," says Jane. Today, the Alitex model they chose, with bespoke glazing bars that echo the windows of the house, also looks perfectly at home.

The family spend as much of their time in the garden as possible, relishing a sense of enclosure that never veers into claustrophobia. Dozens of trees, including amelanchiers, phillyreas, acers and *Cornus kousa*, help define the sequence of gardens that lead all round the house, linked by paths of gravel, brick and a touch of local flint. The expansive flowerbeds are filled with an explosion of salvias and echinaceas, perovskia, euphorbias and ornamental grasses, and dainty *Stipa tenuissima* seeds into the paths, along with erigeron and *Alchemilla mollis*. The overall effect is extremely pretty, but the underlying architecture provides a robust framework that stops it degenerating into chocolate-box cliché.

The original vision now appears complete, but keen gardeners with land are never satisfied and Jane and the owners are still dreaming up extensions to their original plan. The descending land behind the greenhouse wall was recently reimagined as a Secret Garden wrapped around by wildflower meadows, leading to an orchard and on to a secluded stumpery with an evolving collection of ferns and hellebores. Meanwhile, at the other side of the garden, up a slope filled with roses and choisya, buddleja, lilac and *Viburnum opulus*, a giant digger is currently cutting steps into the bank. "This leads to the highest part of the garden, which already has a few good trees, so the idea is to make a mini-arboretum, encourage the native wildflowers and make another nice space for casual meals," says Jane.

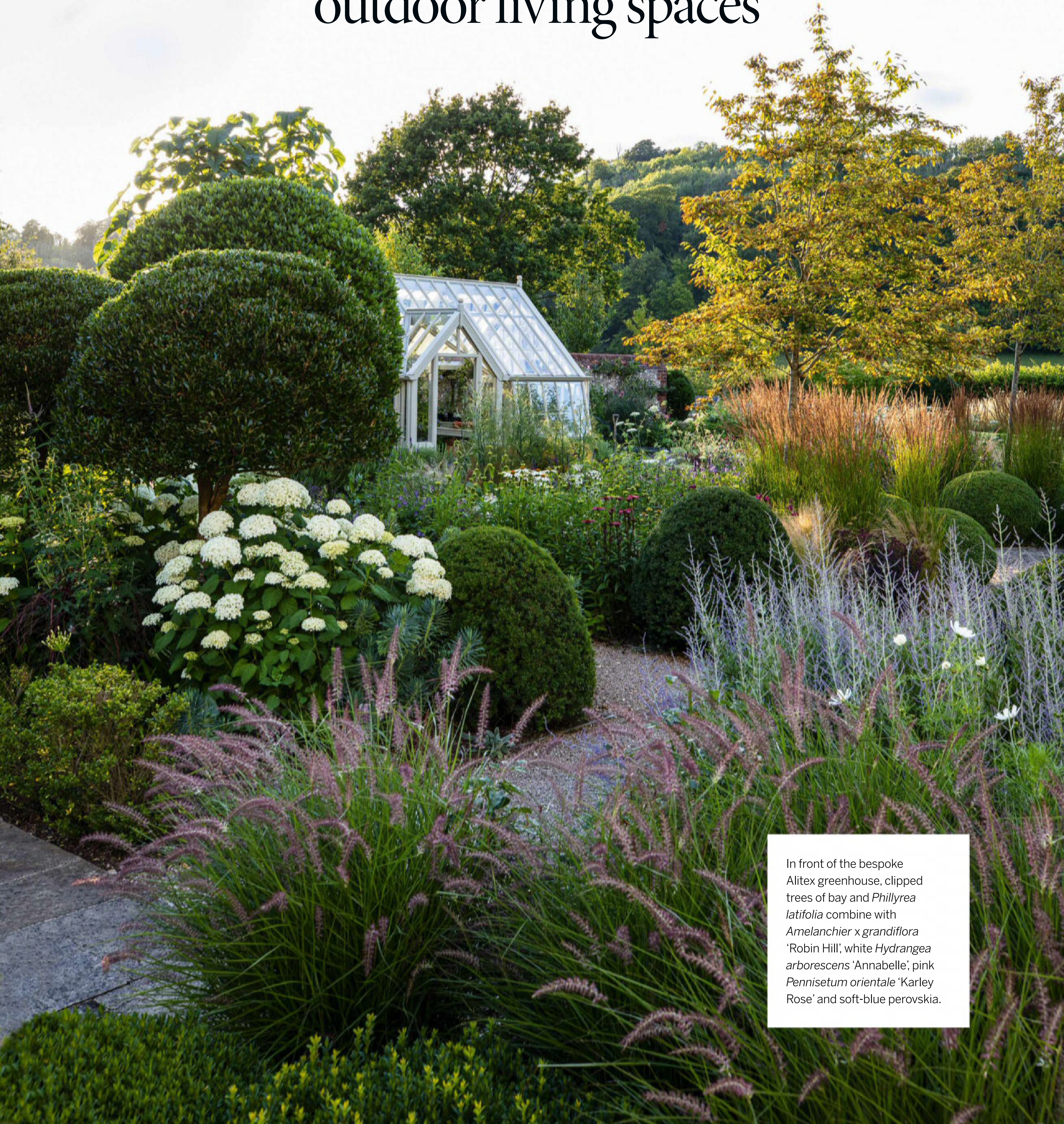
A lichen-dusted table and festoon lights strung between the trees mean this farthest corner of the garden is already well worth a visit. The recent appearance of wild orchids only adds to its attractions. In a garden with so many nooks and crannies, why would you want to go anywhere else? ■

USEFUL INFORMATION

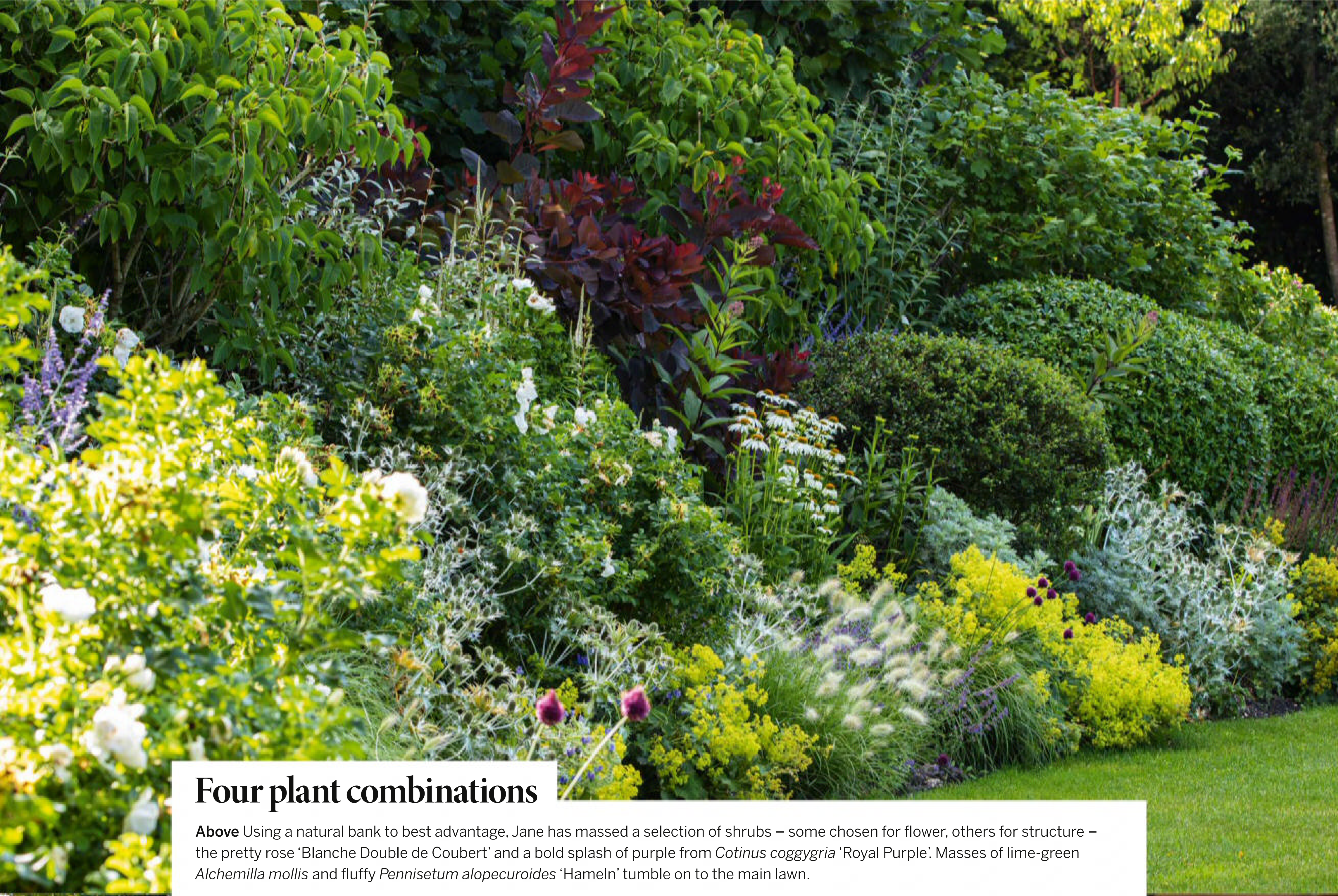
Find out more about Jane's work at **janebrown.co.uk**

See more of the garden and its planting combinations over the next six pages ▷

> The owners wanted colour, texture and year-round interest as well as lots of different outdoor living spaces



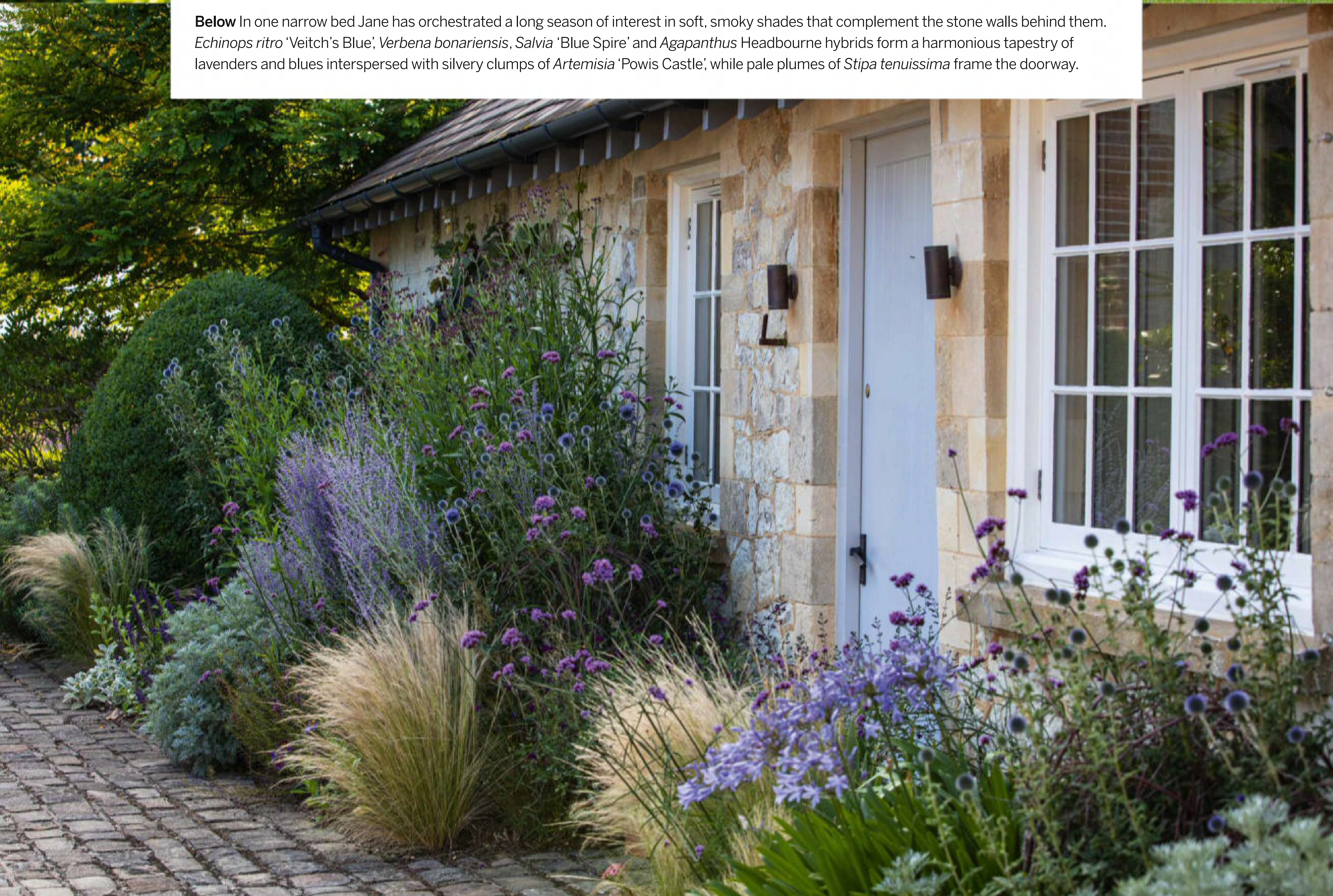
In front of the bespoke Alitex greenhouse, clipped trees of bay and *Phillyrea latifolia* combine with *Amelanchier* x *grandiflora* 'Robin Hill', white *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle', pink *Pennisetum orientale* 'Karley Rose' and soft-blue perovskia.

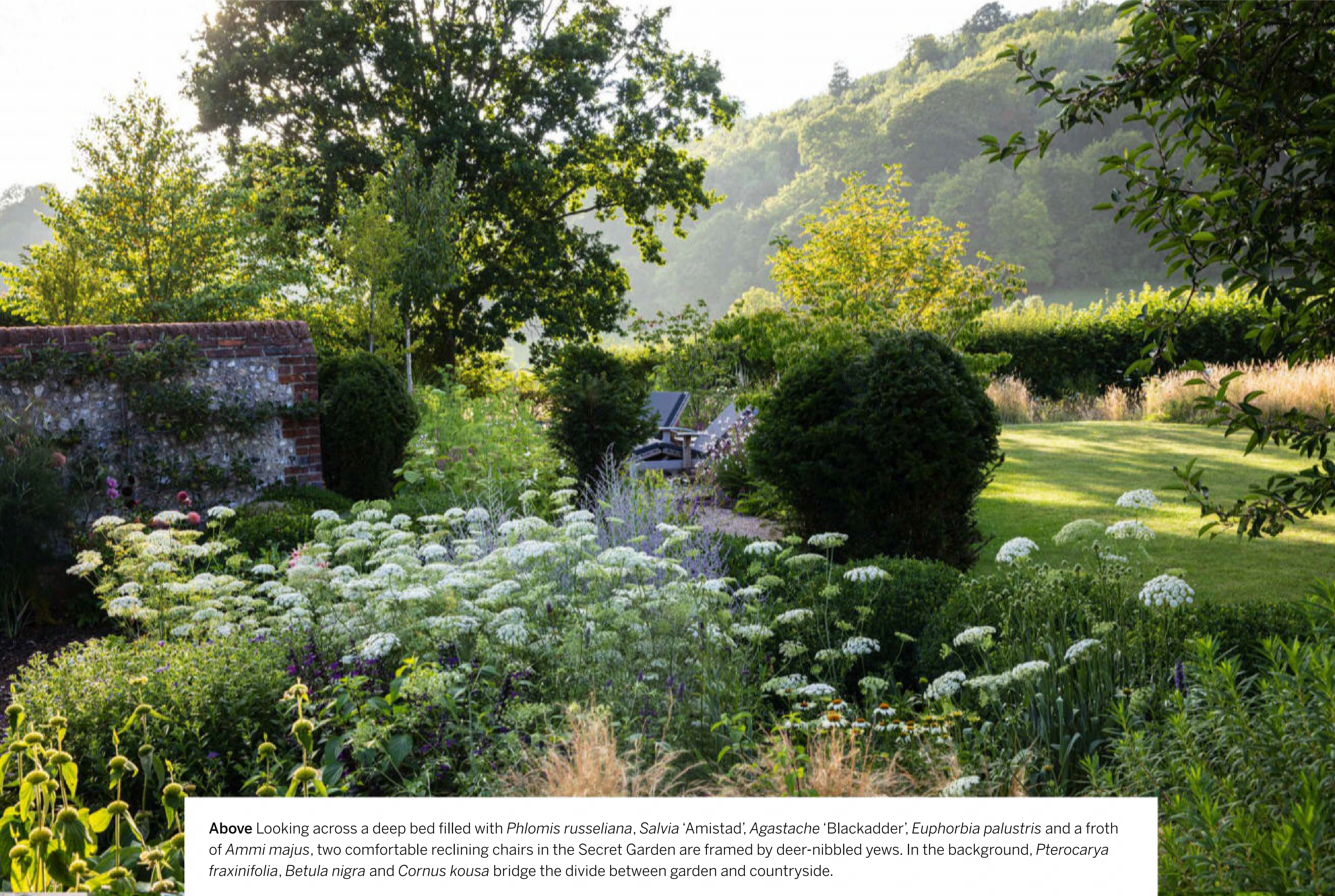


Four plant combinations

Above Using a natural bank to best advantage, Jane has massed a selection of shrubs – some chosen for flower, others for structure – the pretty rose 'Blanche Double de Coubert' and a bold splash of purple from *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple'. Masses of lime-green *Alchemilla mollis* and fluffy *Pennisetum alopecuroides* 'Hameln' tumble on to the main lawn.

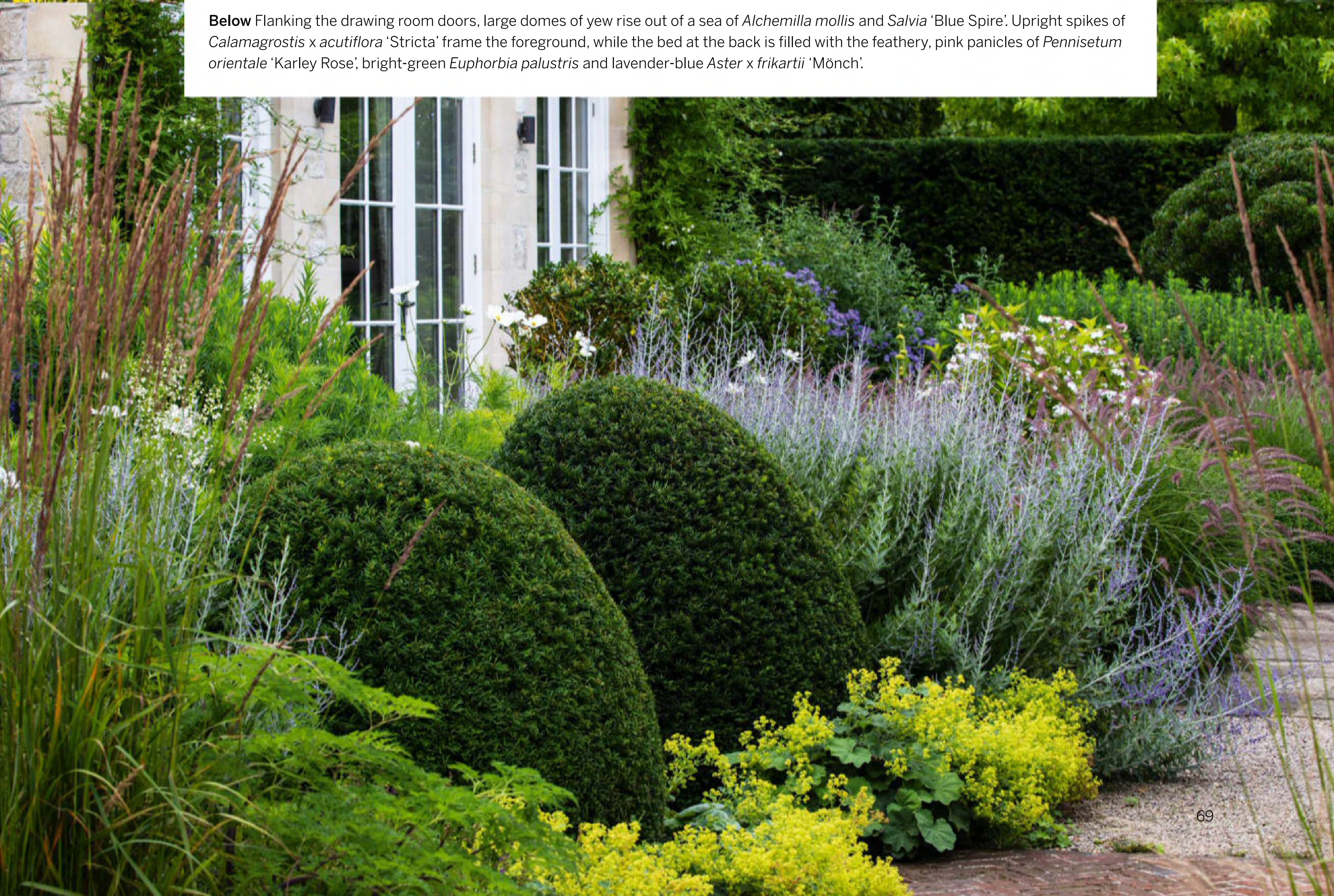
Below In one narrow bed Jane has orchestrated a long season of interest in soft, smoky shades that complement the stone walls behind them. *Echinops ritro* 'Veitch's Blue', *Verbena bonariensis*, *Salvia* 'Blue Spire' and *Agapanthus* Headbourne hybrids form a harmonious tapestry of lavenders and blues interspersed with silvery clumps of *Artemisia* 'Powis Castle', while pale plumes of *Stipa tenuissima* frame the doorway.



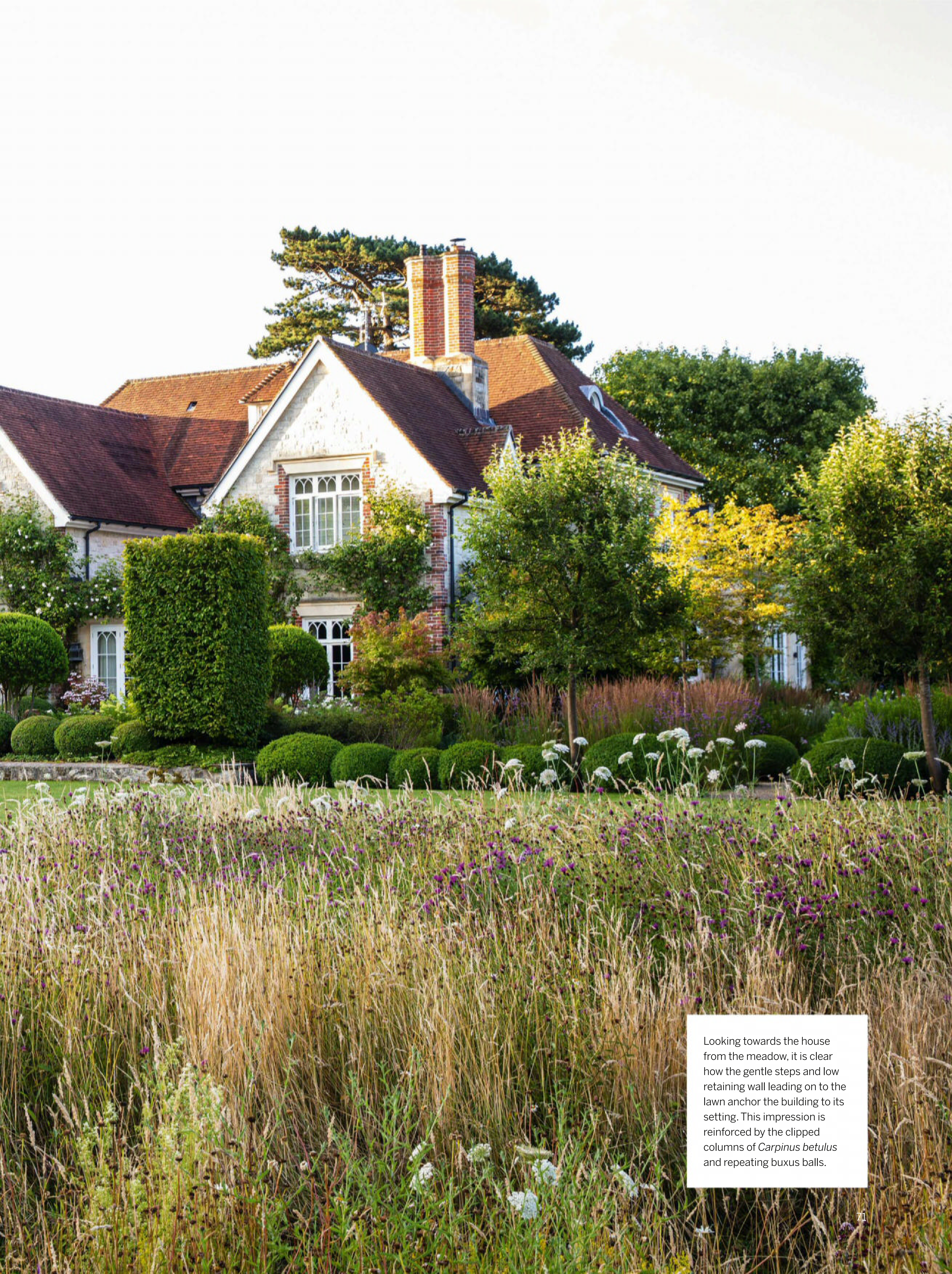


Above Looking across a deep bed filled with *Phlomis russeliana*, *Salvia* 'Amistad', *Agastache* 'Blackadder', *Euphorbia palustris* and a froth of *Ammi majus*, two comfortable reclining chairs in the Secret Garden are framed by deer-nibbled yews. In the background, *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*, *Betula nigra* and *Cornus kousa* bridge the divide between garden and countryside.

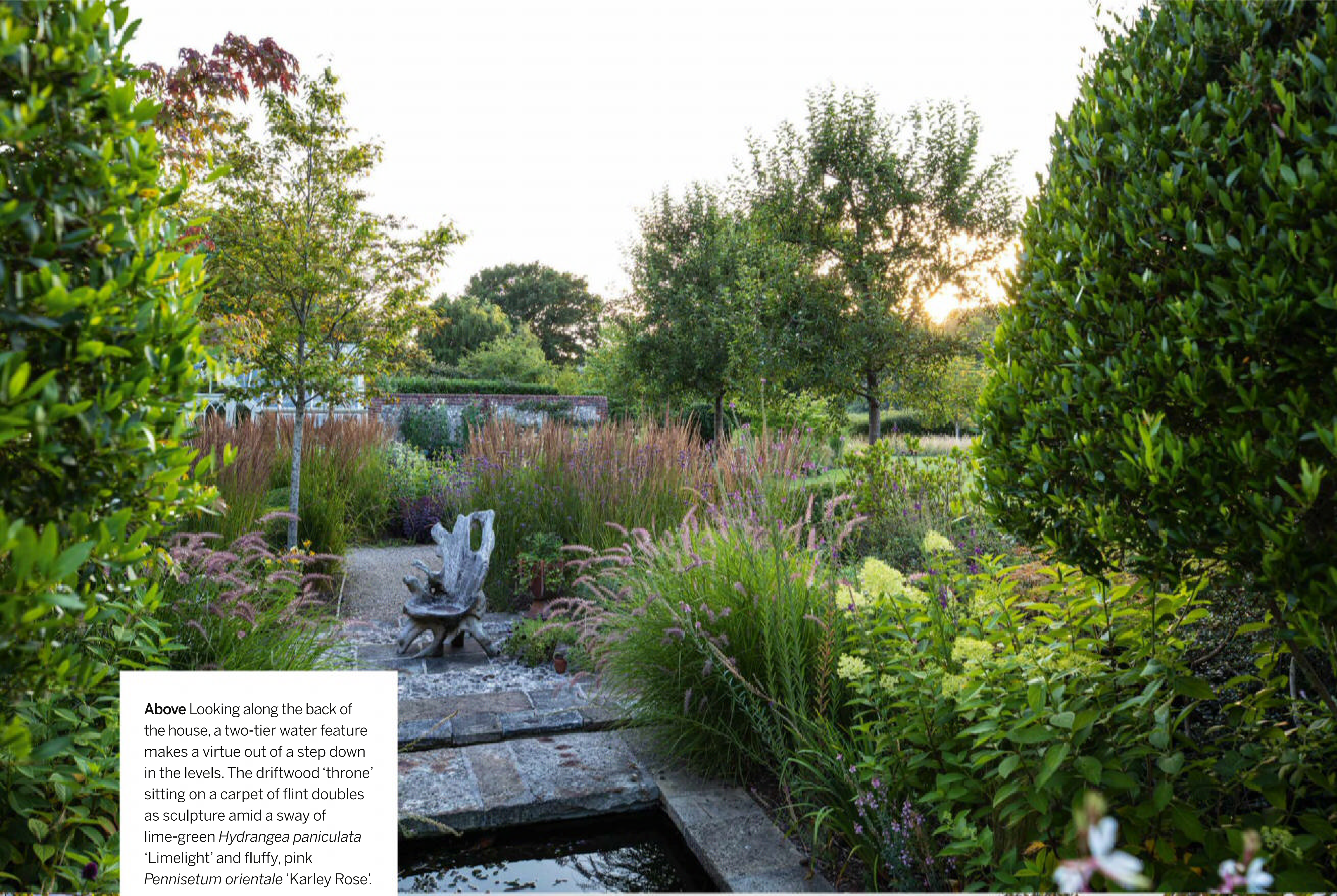
Below Flanking the drawing room doors, large domes of yew rise out of a sea of *Alchemilla mollis* and *Salvia* 'Blue Spire'. Upright spikes of *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta' frame the foreground, while the bed at the back is filled with the feathery, pink panicles of *Pennisetum orientale* 'Karley Rose', bright-green *Euphorbia palustris* and lavender-blue *Aster* x *frikartii* 'Mönch'.

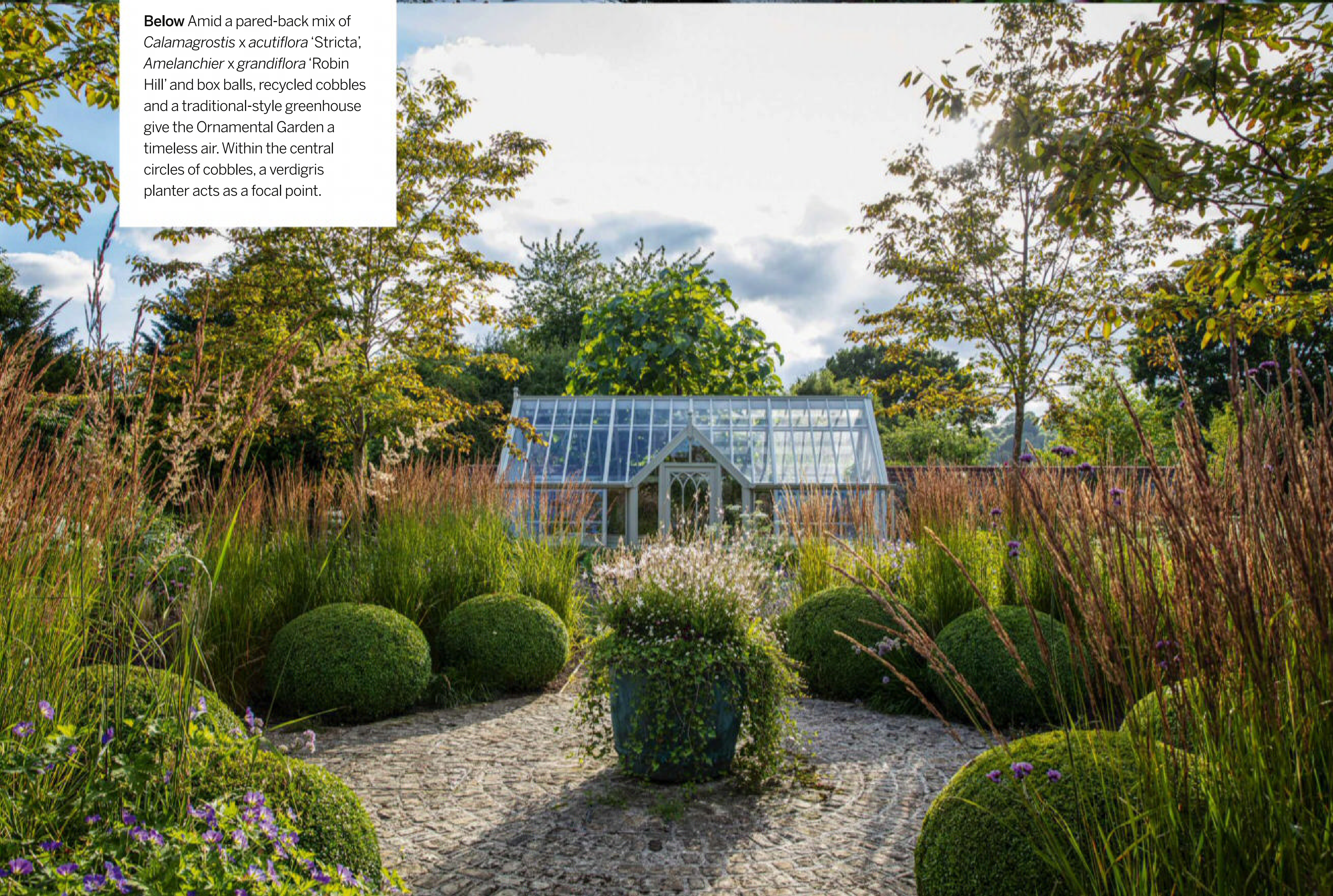


The underlying architecture provides a robust framework that stops the garden slipping into chocolate-box cliché



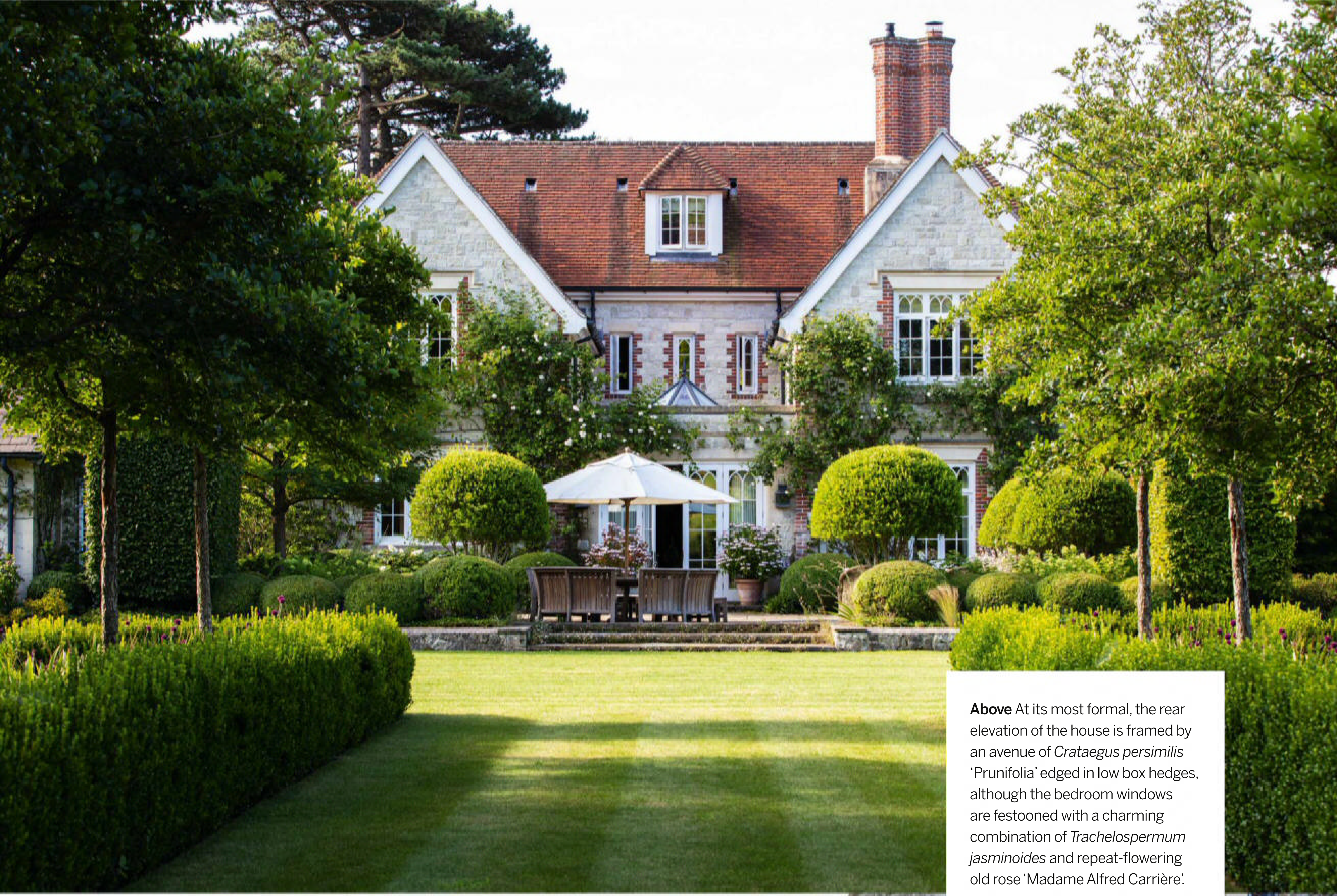
Looking towards the house from the meadow, it is clear how the gentle steps and low retaining wall leading on to the lawn anchor the building to its setting. This impression is reinforced by the clipped columns of *Carpinus betulus* and repeating buxus balls.





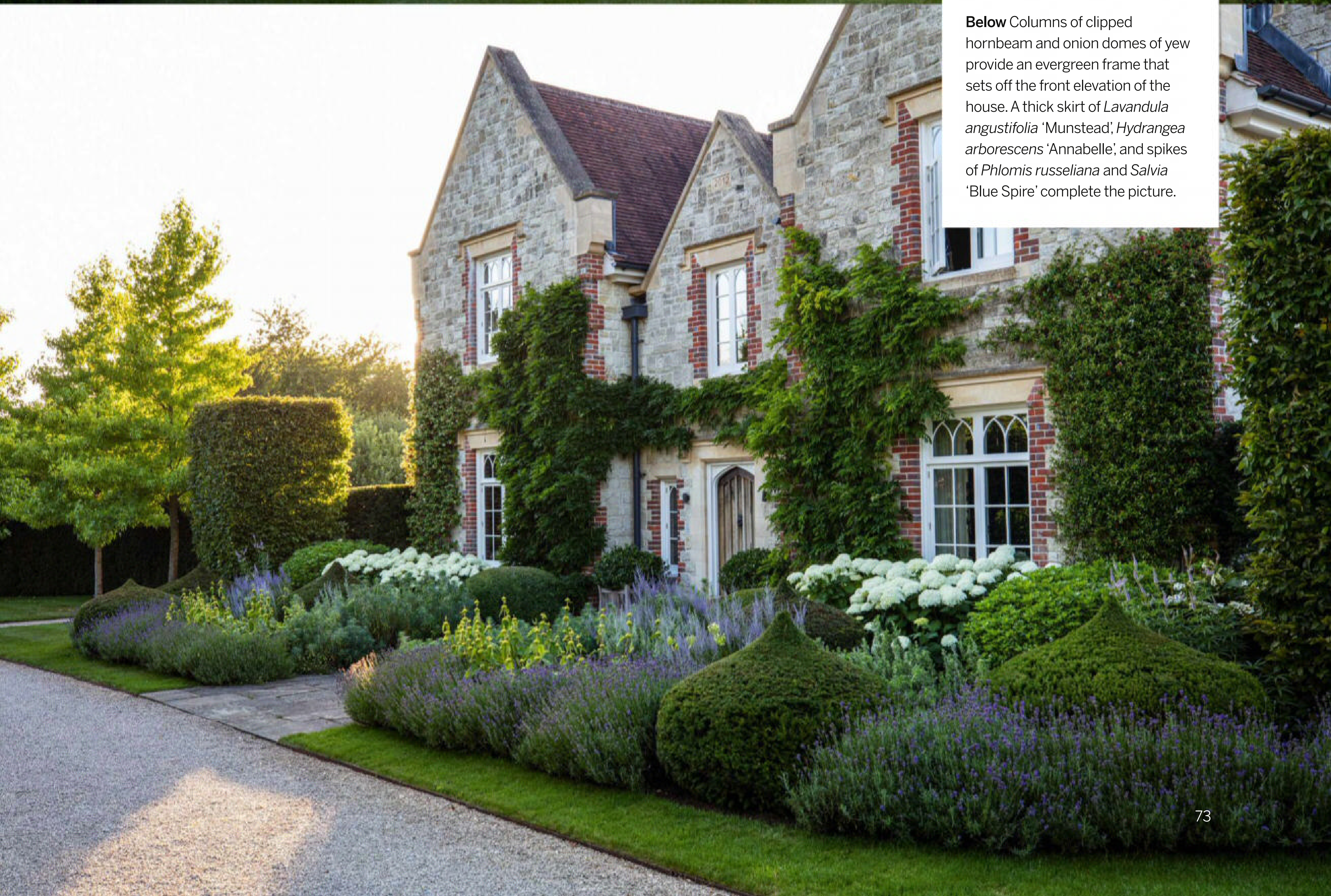
Above Looking along the back of the house, a two-tier water feature makes a virtue out of a step down in the levels. The driftwood 'throne' sitting on a carpet of flint doubles as sculpture amid a sway of lime-green *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Limelight' and fluffy, pink *Pennisetum orientale* 'Karley Rose'.

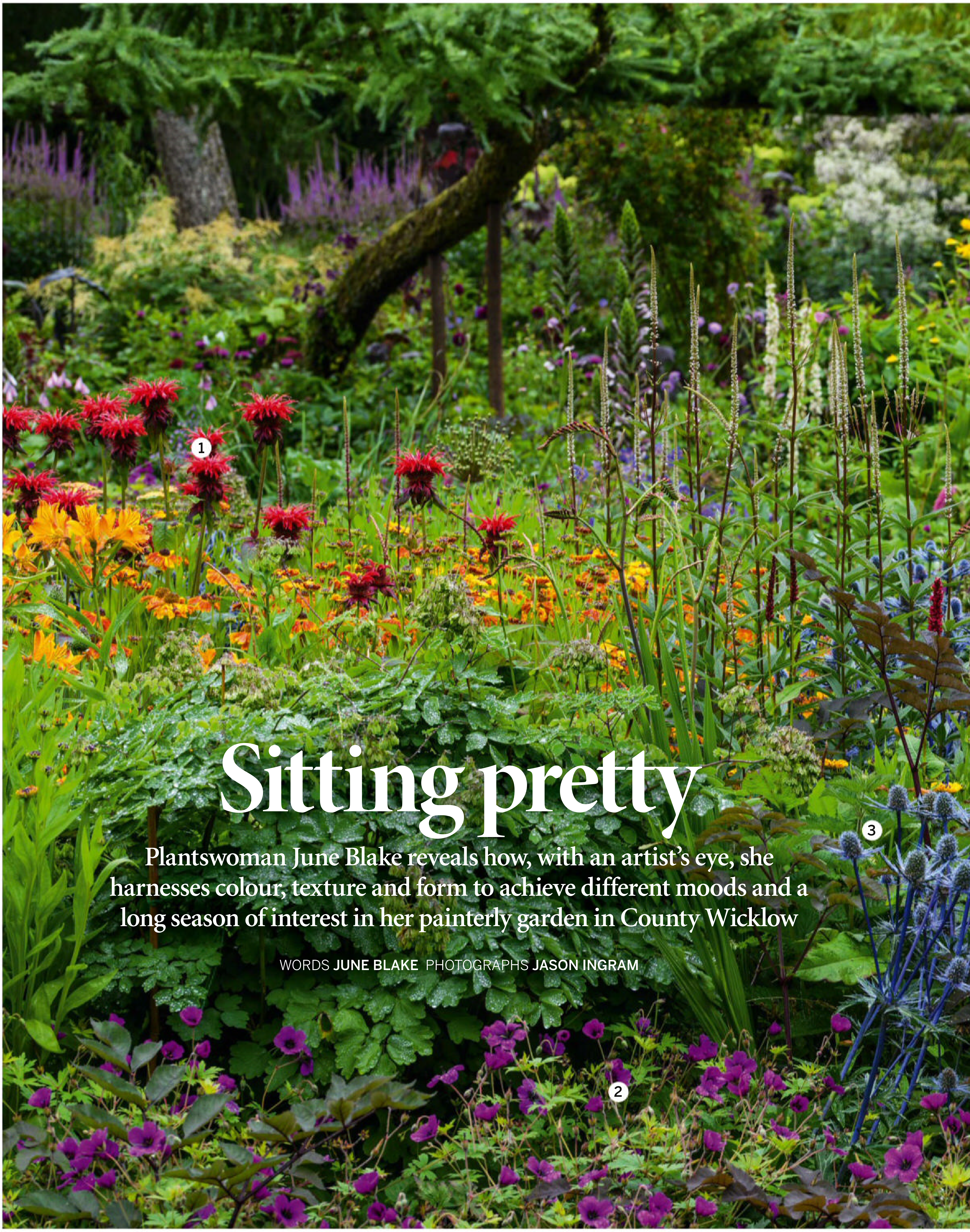
Below Amid a pared-back mix of *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Stricta', *Amelanchier* x *grandiflora* 'Robin Hill' and box balls, recycled cobbles and a traditional-style greenhouse give the Ornamental Garden a timeless air. Within the central circles of cobbles, a verdigris planter acts as a focal point.



Above At its most formal, the rear elevation of the house is framed by an avenue of *Crataegus persimilis* 'Prunifolia' edged in low box hedges, although the bedroom windows are festooned with a charming combination of *Trachelospermum jasminoides* and repeat-flowering old rose 'Madame Alfred Carrière'.

Below Columns of clipped hornbeam and onion domes of yew provide an evergreen frame that sets off the front elevation of the house. A thick skirt of *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Munstead', *Hydrangea arborescens* 'Annabelle', and spikes of *Phlomis russeliana* and *Salvia* 'Blue Spire' complete the picture.

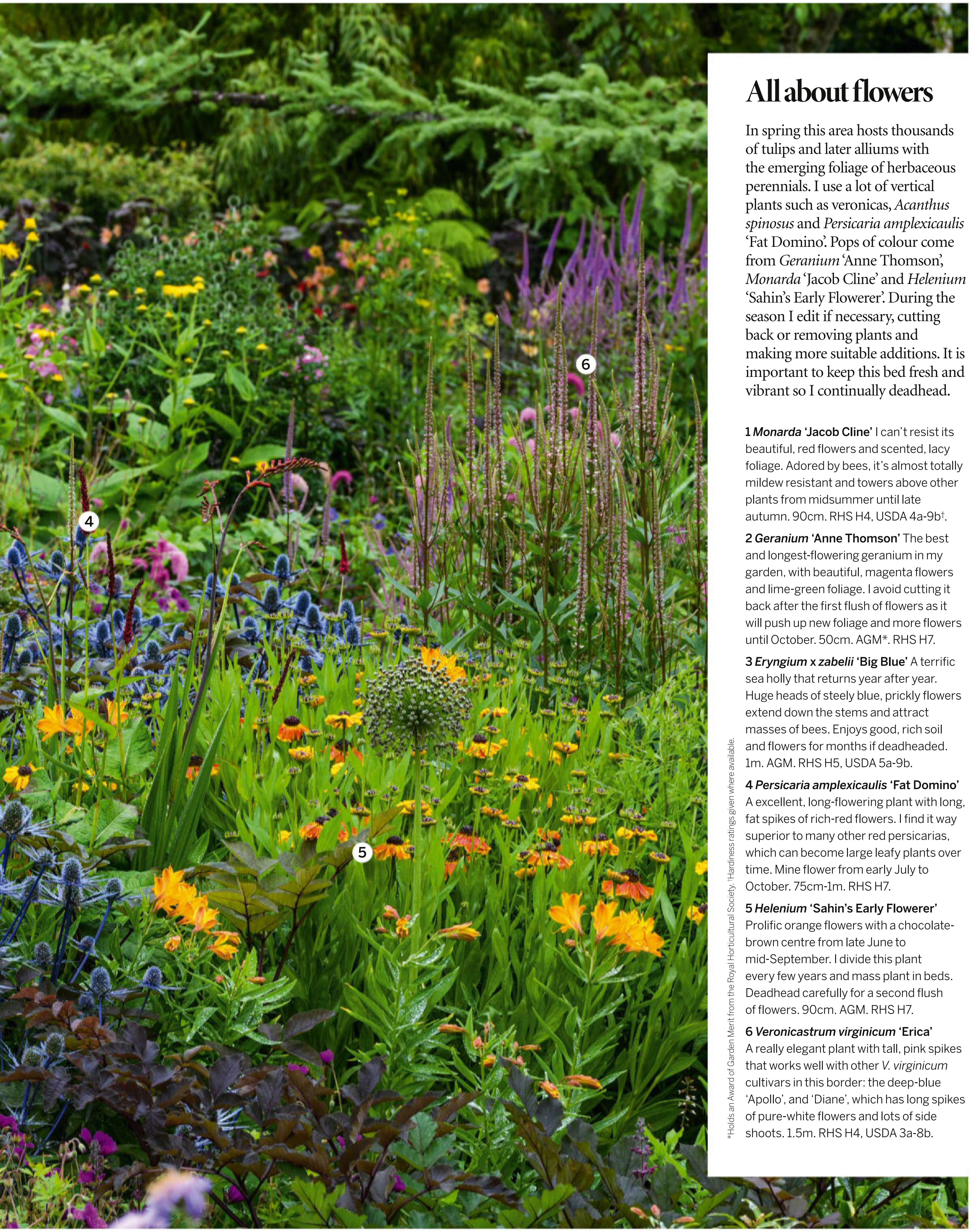




Sitting pretty

Plantswoman June Blake reveals how, with an artist's eye, she harnesses colour, texture and form to achieve different moods and a long season of interest in her painterly garden in County Wicklow

WORDS **JUNE BLAKE** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**



All about flowers

In spring this area hosts thousands of tulips and later alliums with the emerging foliage of herbaceous perennials. I use a lot of vertical plants such as veronicas, *Acanthus spinosus* and *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Fat Domino'. Pops of colour come from *Geranium* 'Anne Thomson', *Monarda* 'Jacob Cline' and *Helenium* 'Sahin's Early Flowerer'. During the season I edit if necessary, cutting back or removing plants and making more suitable additions. It is important to keep this bed fresh and vibrant so I continually deadhead.

1 *Monarda* 'Jacob Cline' I can't resist its beautiful, red flowers and scented, lacy foliage. Adored by bees, it's almost totally mildew resistant and towers above other plants from midsummer until late autumn. 90cm. RHS H4, USDA 4a-9b†.

2 *Geranium* 'Anne Thomson' The best and longest-flowering geranium in my garden, with beautiful, magenta flowers and lime-green foliage. I avoid cutting it back after the first flush of flowers as it will push up new foliage and more flowers until October. 50cm. AGM*. RHS H7.

3 *Eryngium* x *zabelii* 'Big Blue' A terrific sea holly that returns year after year. Huge heads of steely blue, prickly flowers extend down the stems and attract masses of bees. Enjoys good, rich soil and flowers for months if deadheaded. 1m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

4 *Persicaria amplexicaulis* 'Fat Domino' A excellent, long-flowering plant with long, fat spikes of rich-red flowers. I find it way superior to many other red persicarias, which can become large leafy plants over time. Mine flower from early July to October. 75cm-1m. RHS H7.

5 *Helenium* 'Sahin's Early Flowerer' Prolific orange flowers with a chocolate-brown centre from late June to mid-September. I divide this plant every few years and mass plant in beds. Deadhead carefully for a second flush of flowers. 90cm. AGM. RHS H7.

6 *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Erica' A really elegant plant with tall, pink spikes that works well with other *V. virginicum* cultivars in this border: the deep-blue 'Apollo', and 'Diane', which has long spikes of pure-white flowers and lots of side shoots. 1.5m. RHS H4, USDA 3a-8b.

*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.

Tropical paradise

The permanent plants in this area are *Phyllostachys vivax* f. *aureocaulis* 'Huangwenzhu', *Thalictrum* 'Elin' and *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Fascination'. In spring, masses of 'Ballerina', 'Paul Scherer' and 'Purple Dream' tulips flower between the emerging foliage of perennials. Once the danger of frost has passed, I plant out my tender plants. All my dahlias are grown from seed so I select the most suitable colours for different areas of the garden. Here I use shades of pink and purple, which work well with the lavender flowers of *Thalictrum* 'Elin' and the large, purple-tinged leaves of *Roldana cristobalensis*, one of my favourite tropical plants. When it is planted out in late May this area is immediately transformed into a lush, tropical garden.

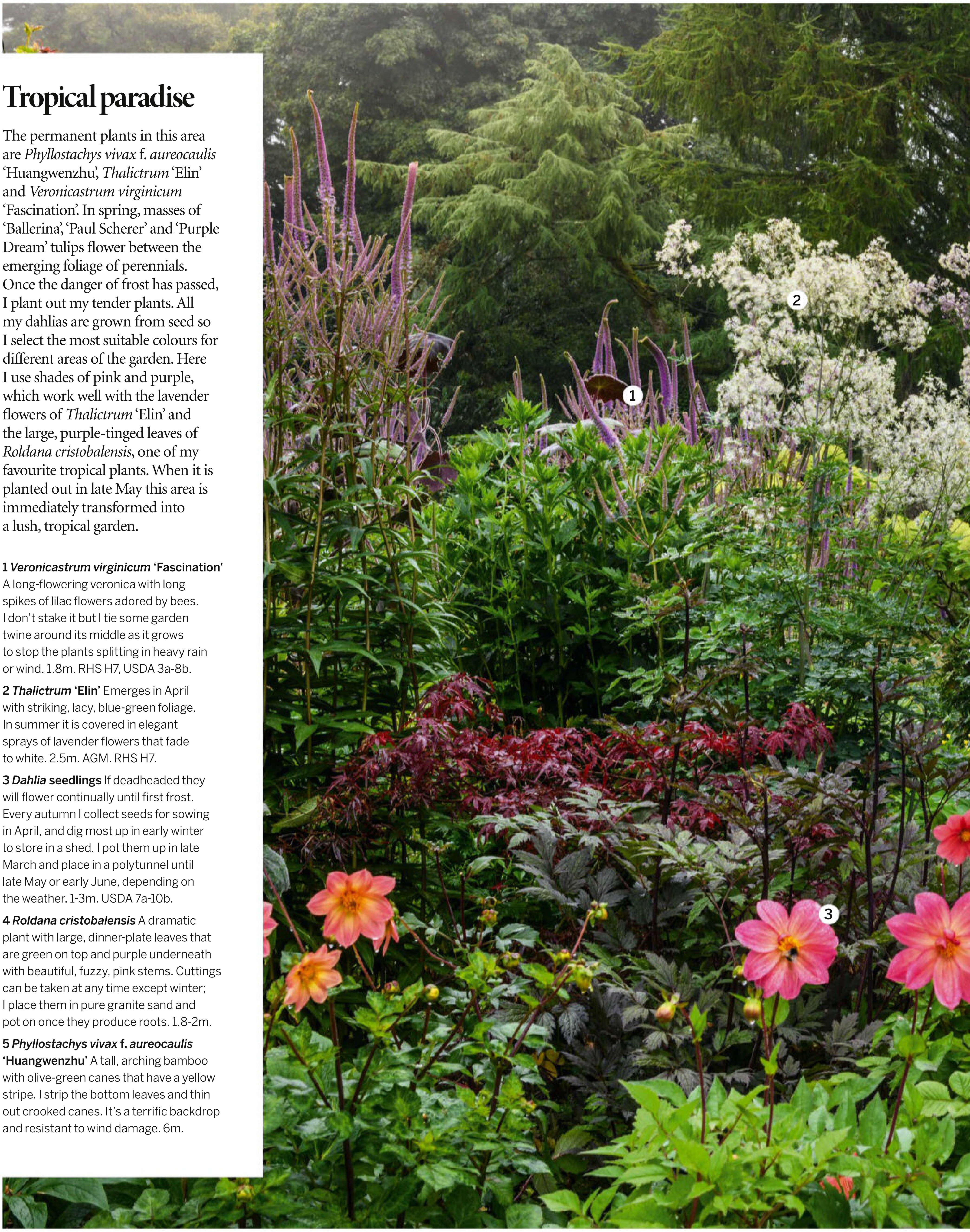
1 *Veronicastrum virginicum* 'Fascination' A long-flowering veronica with long spikes of lilac flowers adored by bees. I don't stake it but I tie some garden twine around its middle as it grows to stop the plants splitting in heavy rain or wind. 1.8m. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

2 *Thalictrum* 'Elin' Emerges in April with striking, lacy, blue-green foliage. In summer it is covered in elegant sprays of lavender flowers that fade to white. 2.5m. AGM. RHS H7.

3 *Dahlia* seedlings If deadheaded they will flower continually until first frost. Every autumn I collect seeds for sowing in April, and dig most up in early winter to store in a shed. I pot them up in late March and place in a polytunnel until late May or early June, depending on the weather. 1-3m. USDA 7a-10b.

4 *Roldana cristobalensis* A dramatic plant with large, dinner-plate leaves that are green on top and purple underneath with beautiful, fuzzy, pink stems. Cuttings can be taken at any time except winter; I place them in pure granite sand and pot on once they produce roots. 1.8-2m.

5 *Phyllostachys vivax* f. *aureocaulis* 'Huangwenzhu' A tall, arching bamboo with olive-green canes that have a yellow stripe. I strip the bottom leaves and thin out crooked canes. It's a terrific backdrop and resistant to wind damage. 6m.



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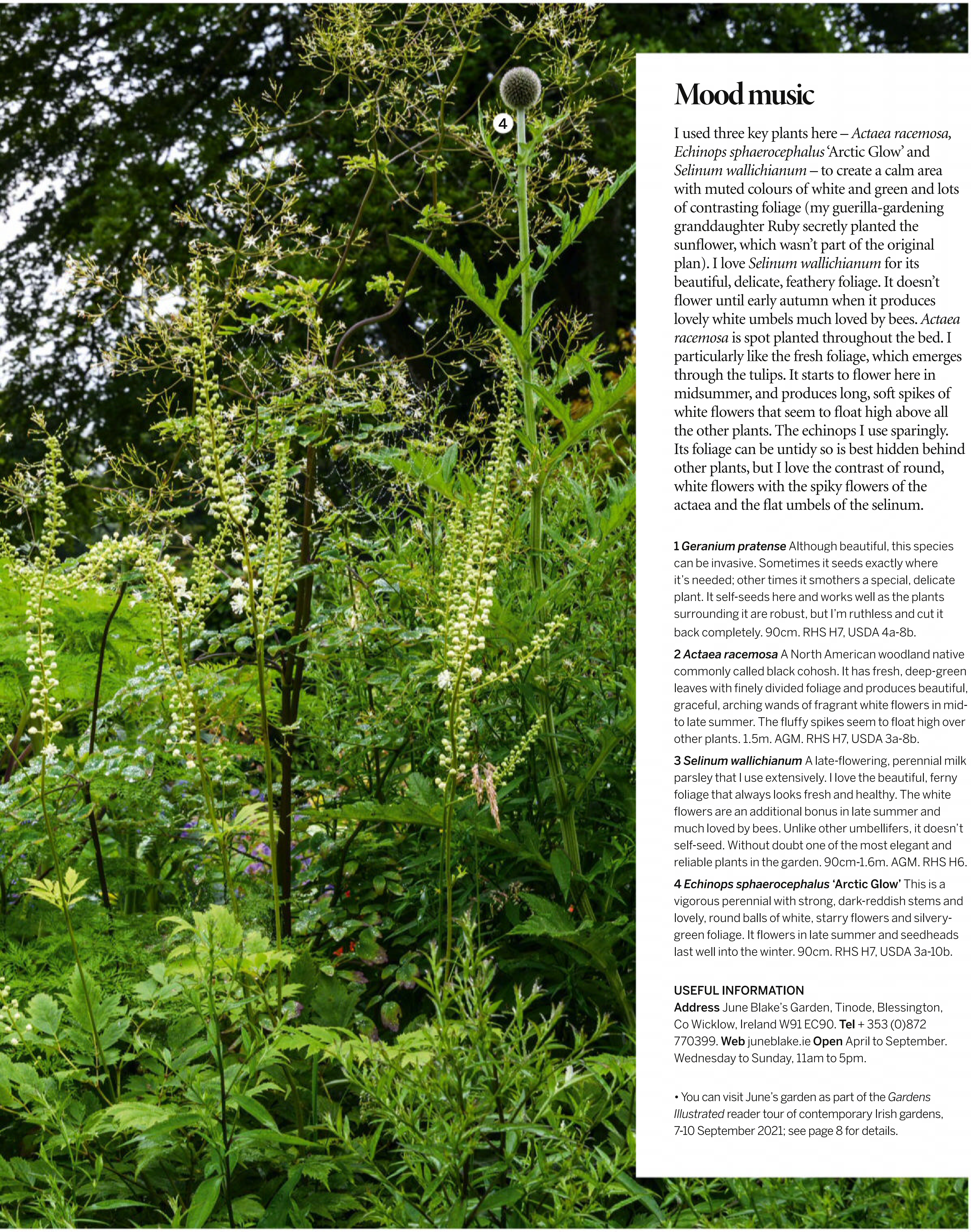


Mood music

I used three key plants here – *Actaea racemosa, Echinops sphaerocephalus* 'Arctic Glow' and *Selinum wallichianum* – to create a calm area with muted colours of white and green and lots of contrasting foliage (my guerilla-gardening granddaughter Ruby secretly planted the sunflower, which wasn't part of the original plan). I love *Selinum wallichianum* for its beautiful, delicate, feathery foliage. It doesn't flower until early autumn when it produces lovely white umbels much loved by bees. *Actaea racemosa* is spot planted throughout the bed. I particularly like the fresh foliage, which emerges through the tulips. It starts to flower here in midsummer, and produces long, soft spikes of white flowers that seem to float high above all the other plants. The echinops I use sparingly. Its foliage can be untidy so is best hidden behind other plants, but I love the contrast of round, white flowers with the spiky flowers of the actaea and the flat umbels of the selinum.

1 ***Geranium pratense*** Although beautiful, this species can be invasive. Sometimes it seeds exactly where it's needed; other times it smothers a special, delicate plant. It self-seeds here and works well as the plants surrounding it are robust, but I'm ruthless and cut it back completely. 90cm. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

2 ***Actaea racemosa*** A North American woodland native commonly called black cohosh. It has fresh, deep-green leaves with finely divided foliage and produces beautiful, graceful, arching wands of fragrant white flowers in mid- to late summer. The fluffy spikes seem to float high over other plants. 1.5m. AGM. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

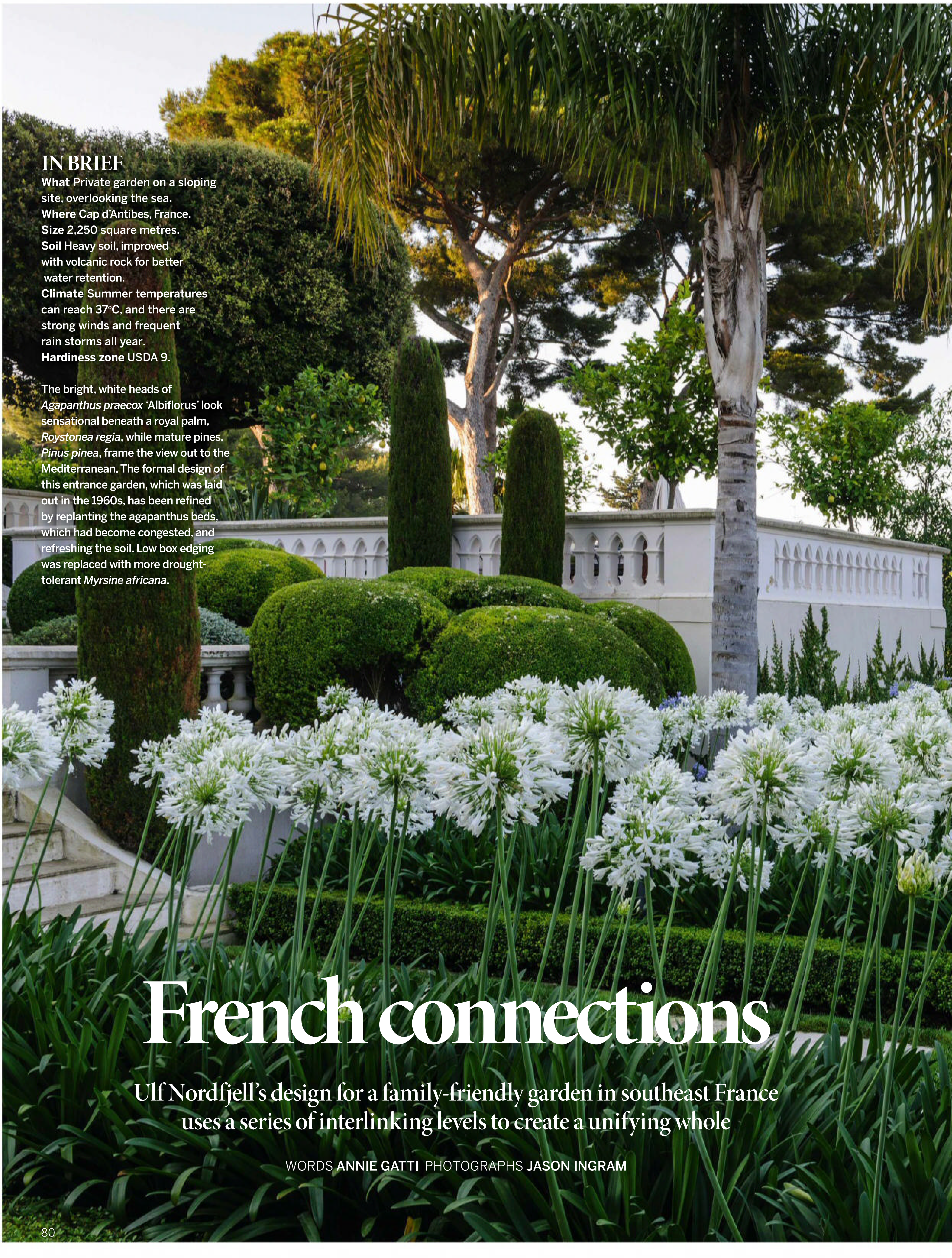
3 ***Selinum wallichianum*** A late-flowering, perennial milk parsley that I use extensively. I love the beautiful, ferny foliage that always looks fresh and healthy. The white flowers are an additional bonus in late summer and much loved by bees. Unlike other umbellifers, it doesn't self-seed. Without doubt one of the most elegant and reliable plants in the garden. 90cm-1.6m. AGM. RHS H6.

4 ***Echinops sphaerocephalus* 'Arctic Glow'** This is a vigorous perennial with strong, dark-reddish stems and lovely, round balls of white, starry flowers and silvery-green foliage. It flowers in late summer and seedheads last well into the winter. 90cm. RHS H7, USDA 3a-10b.

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address June Blake's Garden, Tinode, Blessington, Co Wicklow, Ireland W91 EC90. **Tel** + 353 (0)872 770399. **Web** juneblake.ie **Open** April to September. Wednesday to Sunday, 11am to 5pm.

• You can visit June's garden as part of the *Gardens Illustrated* reader tour of contemporary Irish gardens, 7-10 September 2021; see page 8 for details.



IN BRIEF

What Private garden on a sloping site, overlooking the sea.
Where Cap d'Antibes, France.
Size 2,250 square metres.
Soil Heavy soil, improved with volcanic rock for better water retention.
Climate Summer temperatures can reach 37°C, and there are strong winds and frequent rain storms all year.
Hardiness zone USDA 9.

The bright, white heads of *Agapanthus praecox* 'Albiflorus' look sensational beneath a royal palm, *Roystonea regia*, while mature pines, *Pinus pinea*, frame the view out to the Mediterranean. The formal design of this entrance garden, which was laid out in the 1960s, has been refined by replanting the agapanthus beds, which had become congested, and refreshing the soil. Low box edging was replaced with more drought-tolerant *Myrsine africana*.

French connections

Ulf Nordfjell's design for a family-friendly garden in southeast France uses a series of interlinking levels to create a unifying whole

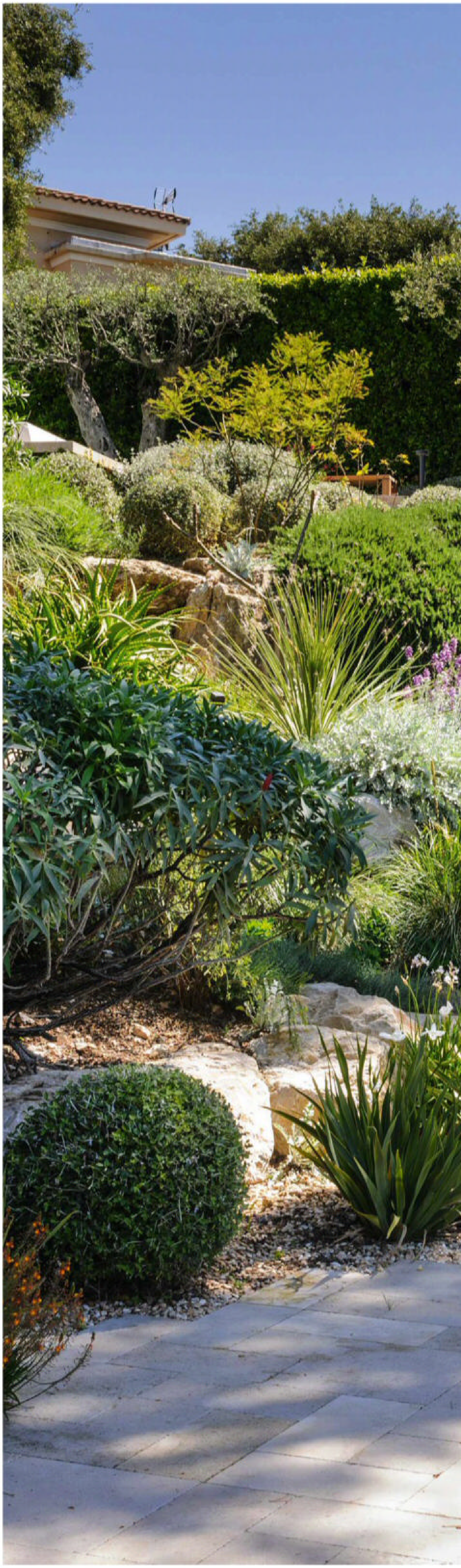
WORDS **ANNIE GATTI** PHOTOGRAPHS **JASON INGRAM**

Through soil improvements, careful selection of plants and restorative tree work by arborists, Ulf and his contractor have created a garden designed to last

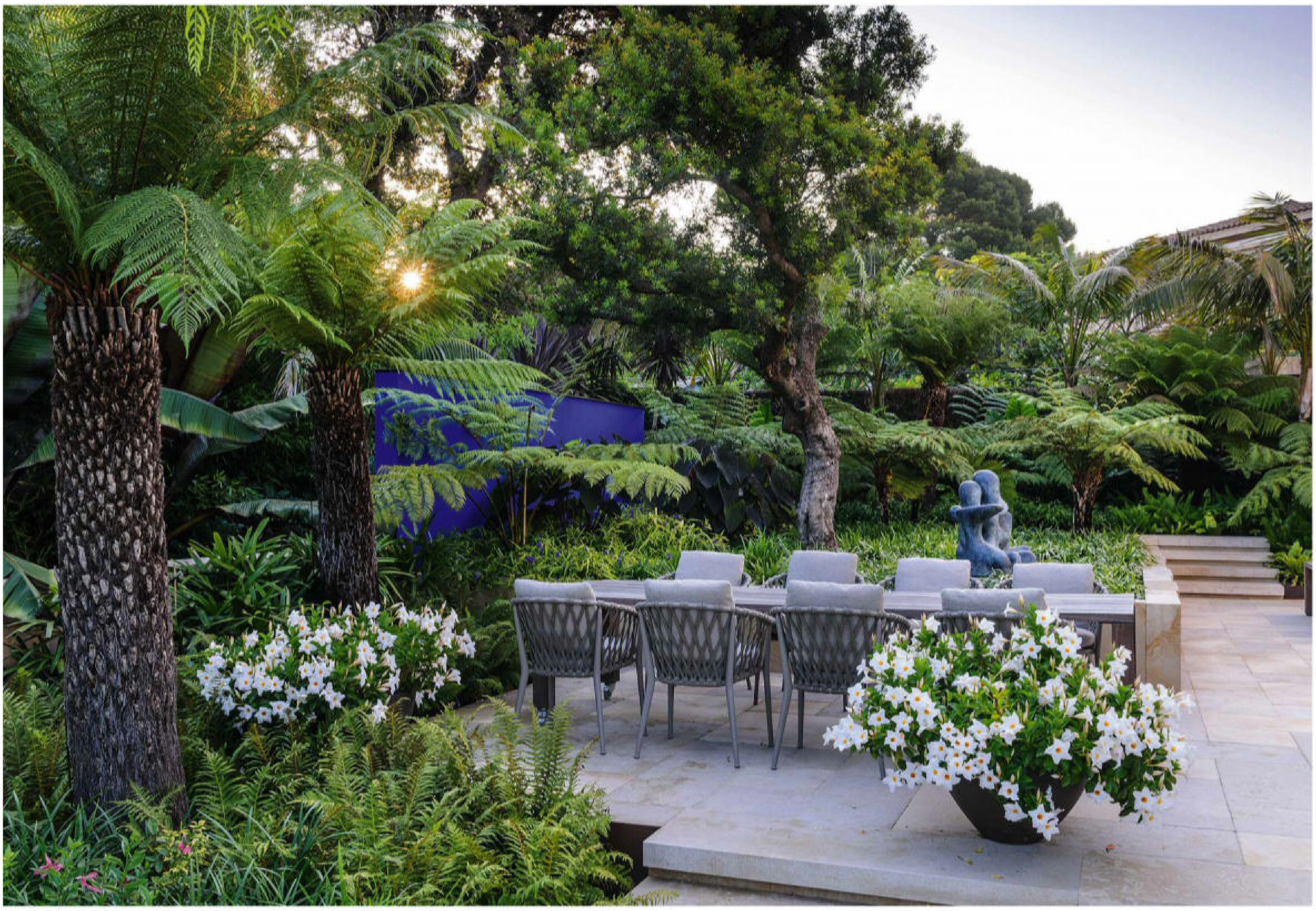
When landscape architect Ulf Nordfjell first stepped through the metal gates of Villa Lumen, high up on the forested headland of Cap d'Antibes, he was struck by the beauty of the villa with its classical proportions and stunning setting overlooking the Mediterranean. The entrance garden, below the white balustrade that surrounds the villa, was formally laid out, with box-edged beds filled with mainly white agapanthus, and framed with pencil cypresses and clipped myrtles. But the rest of the garden, which extends from a high point behind the villa and its guest house and drops steeply down the rocky slope, was, in Ulf's eyes, a mess. "It had typical Riviera garden plants, such as neriums, bougainvilleas and rosemary, and some 100-year-old pines and olives," he says. "But many of the trees and bushes were diseased and dying, and it was so densely overgrown that you couldn't make out the garden below."

The villa is owned by a couple from Stockholm with young children, and Ulf wanted to make a garden they could all use. He was keen to retain as much as he could of the existing planting, including the agapanthus beds and key shrubs, such as those myrtles, rosemary and neriums, and he could see that several of the structural trees, including mature specimens of *Schinus molle*, *Pistacia lentiscus* and *Quercus ilex*, needed to be rescued. His decision to make the whole garden accessible by creating a series of discrete areas on different levels required challenging landscaping work using the same pale, local limestone for sets of steps, retaining walls and paving stones, which helps to unite the garden. The overgrown area at the back of the villa was transformed into a restful, shady garden full of foliage textures where Australian tree ferns thrive in the shade of lofty palms. New beds were created to protect the roots of a mature *Pistacia*, where a feature wall, painted an intense shade of Klein Blue, creates a striking backdrop on the terrace where the family can enjoy al fresco meals, out of the summer heat.

From here, the garden drops down in a series of steps to the entrance garden where the agapanthus were removed, divided and replanted, then edged with ▷



Right The sun-baked rock garden is planted in soil that has been made more open by the addition of volcanic rock. Crisp, clipped balls of *Teucrium fruticans*, the Australian rosemary *Westringia fruticosa* and dense, bushy rosemary, *Salvia rosmarinus*, along with cushioning plants, such as centaureas and erysimums, are interplanted with looser, more vertical forms, including the white society garlic *Tulbaghia violacea* 'Alba', the orange-flowered *Bulbine frutescens* (at the bottom), the fan-shaped *Dasylirion serratifolium* and two spiky aloes, the orange-flowered *Aloe* x *spinossisima* and further up the slope *Aloe arborescens*.



▷ a more sustainable choice of drought-tolerant *Myrsine africana*. "The whole garden is about working with levels," says Ulf. "It was important to make comfortable stairs with wide steps and low treads so that they are not difficult for children or anyone wearing high heels." Ulf's trademark granite pouffes provide resting places at various points on the way down to the bottom of the garden where an enlarged lawn, which required the replanting of full-grown olive trees and neriums, provides a playing space for the children. At the far end, a tilting pine tree casts dappled shade on a wide terrace inset with a sand pit. From here, the ascent back up, alongside a rock garden, follows the contours of the natural bedrock and is planted in pockets of soil between rugged boulders introduced to the sun-baked slope. The planting here is a mix of cushion-shaped, drought-tolerant species, such as *Centaurea ragusina* and *Erysimum* 'Bowles's Mauve', and succulents such as Mexican *Dasylirion serratifolium*, *Hesperaloe funifera*, *Aloe* x *spinosissima* and *Aloe arborescens*. Clipped myrtles and cushions of rosemary and *Westringia* create a framework for the more relaxed species.

Ulf studied the flora of the Mediterranean for his 2013 RHS Chelsea Flower Show garden for Laurent-Perrier, and has since seen at first hand the challenges of growing in conditions that, as a result of climate change, mean African heat at the end of ▷

The whole garden is about working with levels. It was important to make comfortable stairs with wide steps and low treads so they are not difficult for children or anyone wearing high heels

Above In the shady dining area at the back of the villa a gnarled *Pistacia lentiscus* forms the top storey of the layered planting, with a predominantly white and green colour scheme against a blue feature wall. The sculpture, by the owner's father, Jim Ritchie, emerges from a sea of *Liriope muscari* 'Monroe White', while white-flowered *Mandevilla* Diamantina Jade White (= 'Lanmichigan') billows out of terracotta pots.

Right The pathway at the top of the garden leads through two types of tree fern (*Dicksonia antarctica*, right, and *Cyathea australis*, left) and is softened by the arching stems of ferns and *Hakonechloa macra* grass. Red-leaved *Cordyline australis* Purpurea Group, underplanted with *Colocasia esculenta* 'Black Magic', adds depth to the planting.

▷ May, and year-round, plant-rocking winds and sudden downpours. Through soil improvements, careful selection of plants and restorative tree work by arborists, Ulf and his contractor Franck Delmer have created a garden designed to last. Insect infestations have also been a big problem and part of the maintenance regime is regular inspections by an ecologist and the use of biological controls to minimise damage.

Clipped evergreens are a unifying feature throughout the various levels and they provide a green framework all year round. Flowering starts in February with jasmine on the boundary walls and aloes and *Echium candicans* in the rock garden. Roses, on the walls and in a border, bloom in May and again later in the summer while the many standard neriums are spangled with white flowers all summer long. The spectacle of the agapanthus – when he was last visiting Ulf stopped counting at 850 white and 250 blue blooms – lasts for four weeks in midsummer. The garden now offers areas of sun and shade, formality and informality, and a network of floating steps to connect them all. ■

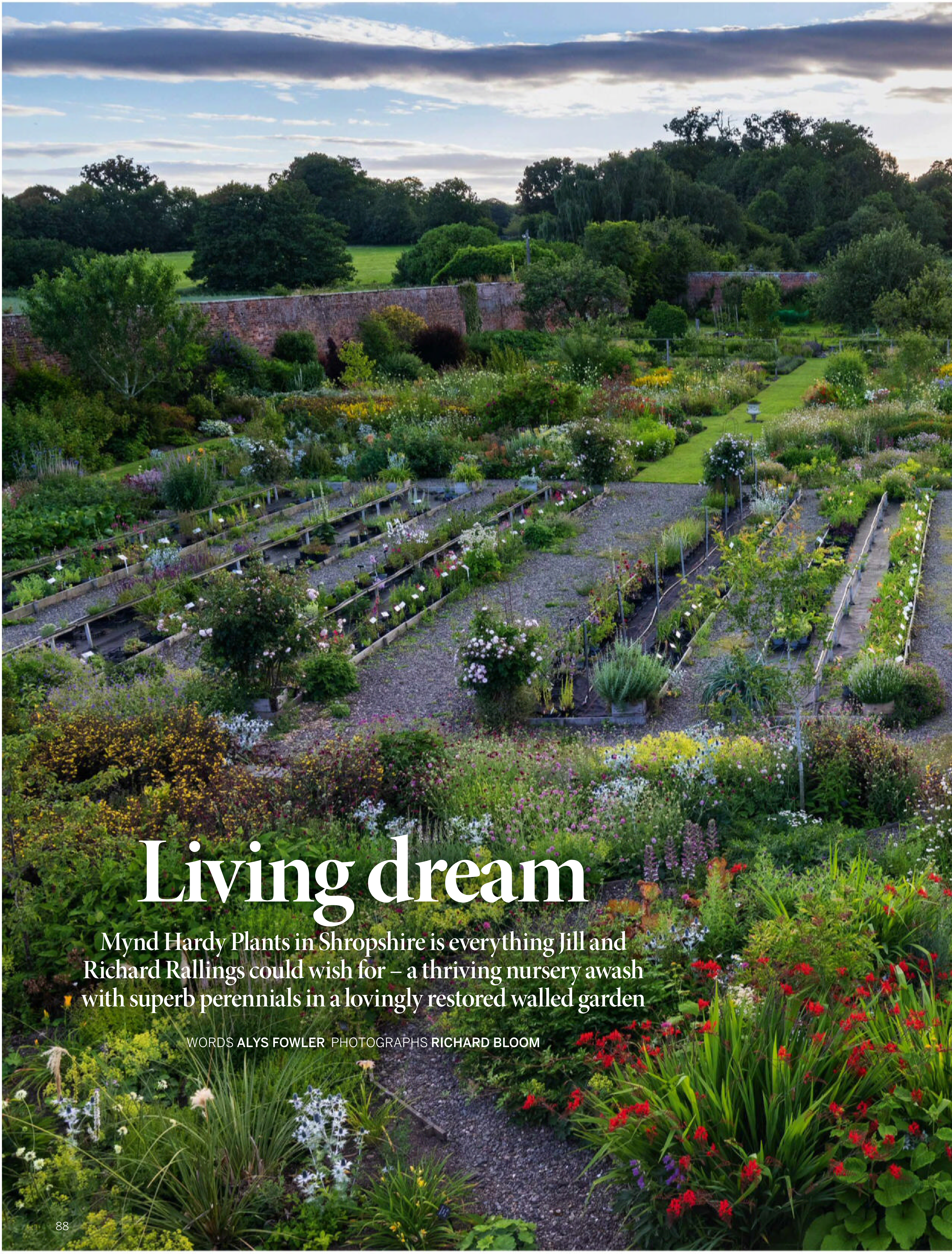
USEFUL INFORMATION
Find out more about Ulf's work at **nordfjellcollection.se**

Ulf is used to the challenges of growing conditions that, as a result of climate change, mean African heat at the end of May, year-round, plant-rocking winds and sudden downpours

Left The upright *Ensete ventricosum* 'Maurellii', with its paddle-shaped leaves, adds tones of burgundy to the predominantly green planting around the feature wall against the backdrop of an existing screen of bamboo. The strappy leaves of *Rhapis excelsa* (left) create textural contrast.

Above left Young tree ferns and the Japanese forest grass *Hakonechloa macra*, growing in the shade of *Howea forsteriana* palm trees, create layered planting in the shady garden. In the background, a climbing *Hydrangea petiolaris* grows against a brushwood fence.

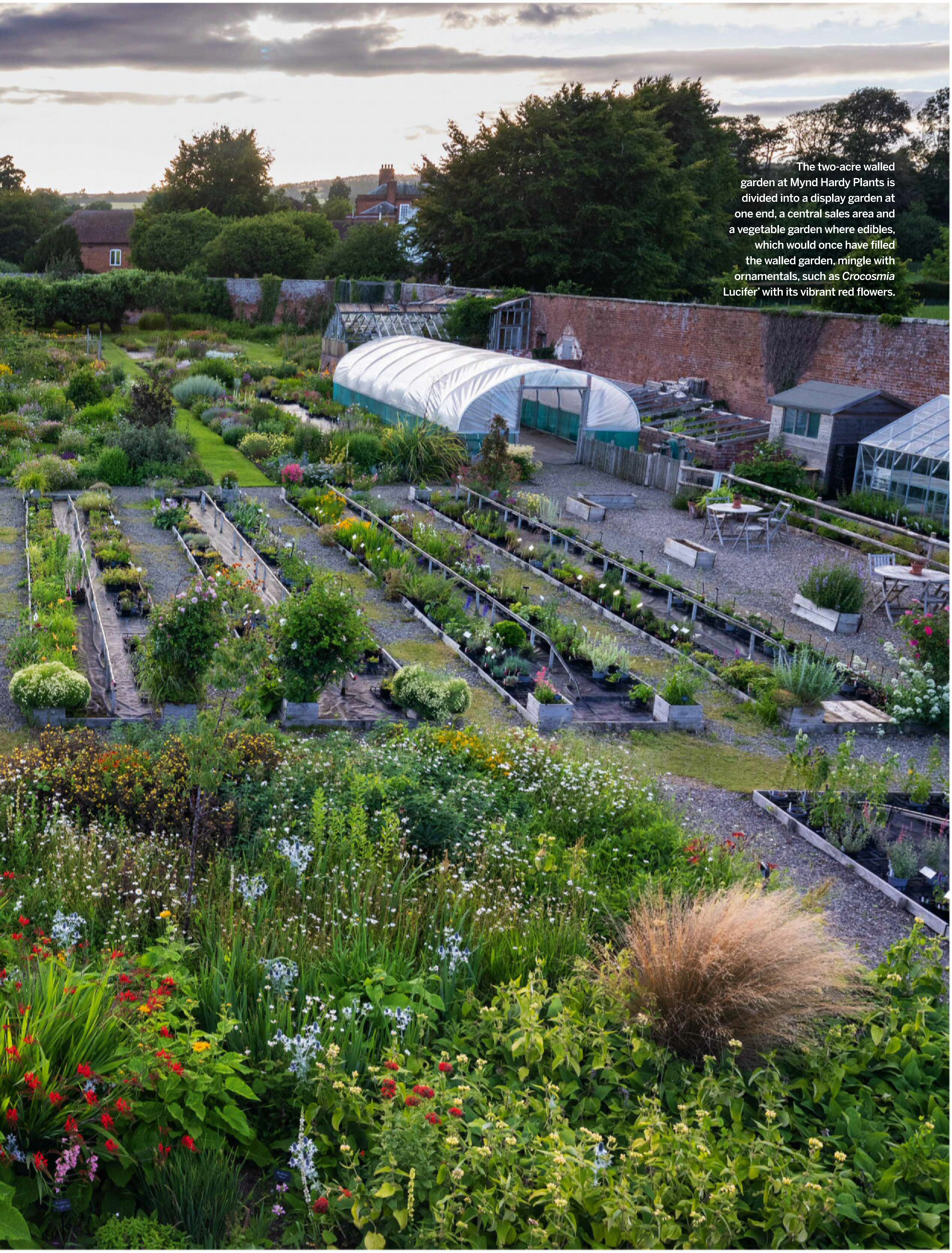
Above right The deep-blue flowers of *Tradescantia* Andersoniana Group complement the feature wall, which is painted in bold Klein Blue. The wall also provides a surface for ever-changing shadows as the sunlight filters through the tree canopy.



Living dream

Mynd Hardy Plants in Shropshire is everything Jill and Richard Rallings could wish for – a thriving nursery awash with superb perennials in a lovingly restored walled garden

WORDS **ALYS FOWLER** PHOTOGRAPHS **RICHARD BLOOM**



The two-acre walled garden at Mynd Hardy Plants is divided into a display garden at one end, a central sales area and a vegetable garden where edibles, which would once have filled the walled garden, mingle with ornamentals, such as *Crocosmia* Lucifer' with its vibrant red flowers.

Benches in front of the potting shed display an eclectic mix of plants for sale, including *Phlox paniculata* 'Bright Eyes', *Agastache* 'Blackadder', *Helictotrichon sempervirens*, *Erigeron karvinskianus* and *Prunella grandiflora*.

It's the dream, isn't it? To open a nursery, one that just happens to have a rather lovely wall around it and some gracefully ageing apple trees. Perhaps you might even indulge in your other love and serve some very good English wine for customers to sup between viewing your beautiful border and buying a fine selection of plants.

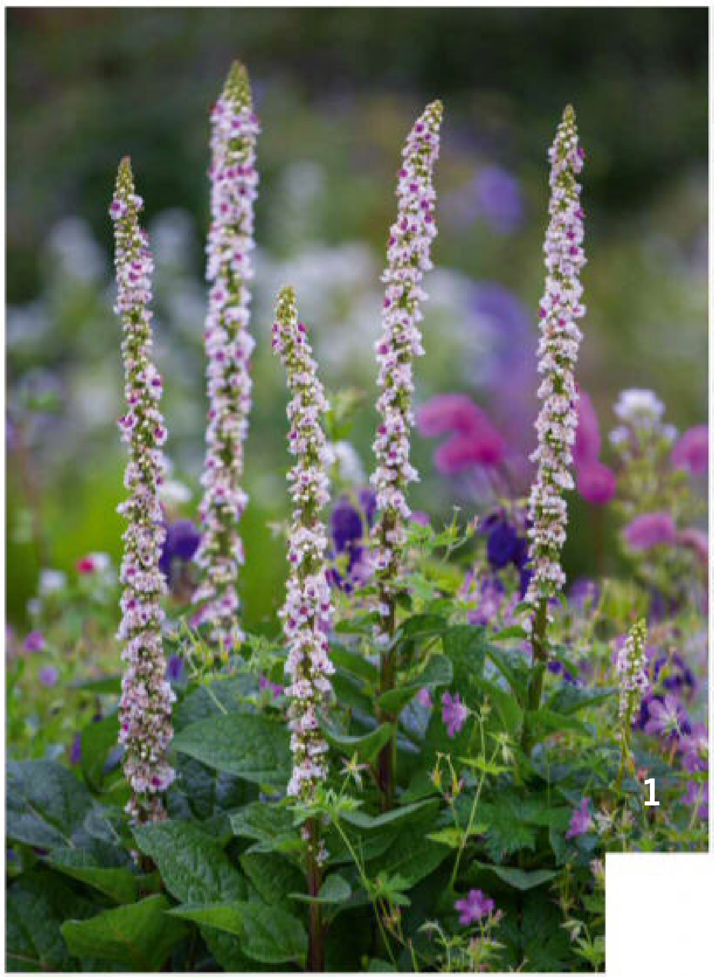
Jill Rallings, co-owner of Mynd Hardy Plants, certainly had a dream when she upped sticks from London, leaving her job in education to move to Shropshire. The dream just didn't yet have a nursery in it – that is until she and her husband Richard had an idea. Originally a soil specialist and environmental adviser, Richard is also trained in garden design and had started a vineyard in Morville that was rapidly expanding. Its success meant that the couple needed to find outlets for the award-winning wine. "We thought the combination of wine and plants would be perfect, so we contacted Mynd Hardy Plants, but the owner was looking to sell up." Rather than try to sell him some wine, the couple decided to buy the nursery. This was in March 2014 and they haven't looked back since.

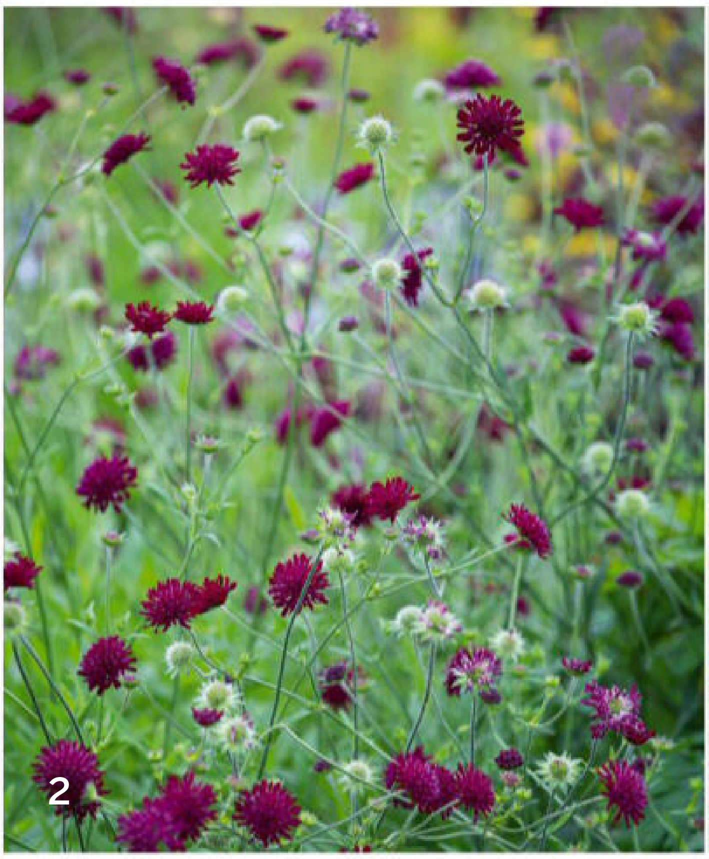
The nursery is located within the Victorian walled garden of Delbury Hall, leased from the owner Patrick Wrigley. With his support but an otherwise free rein to develop the site, Richard and Jill decided on a slow, sympathetic restoration to marry the historic walled garden – built in 1850 and home to apple trees, thought to be 'Golden Noble' and around 150 years old – with a modern nursery.

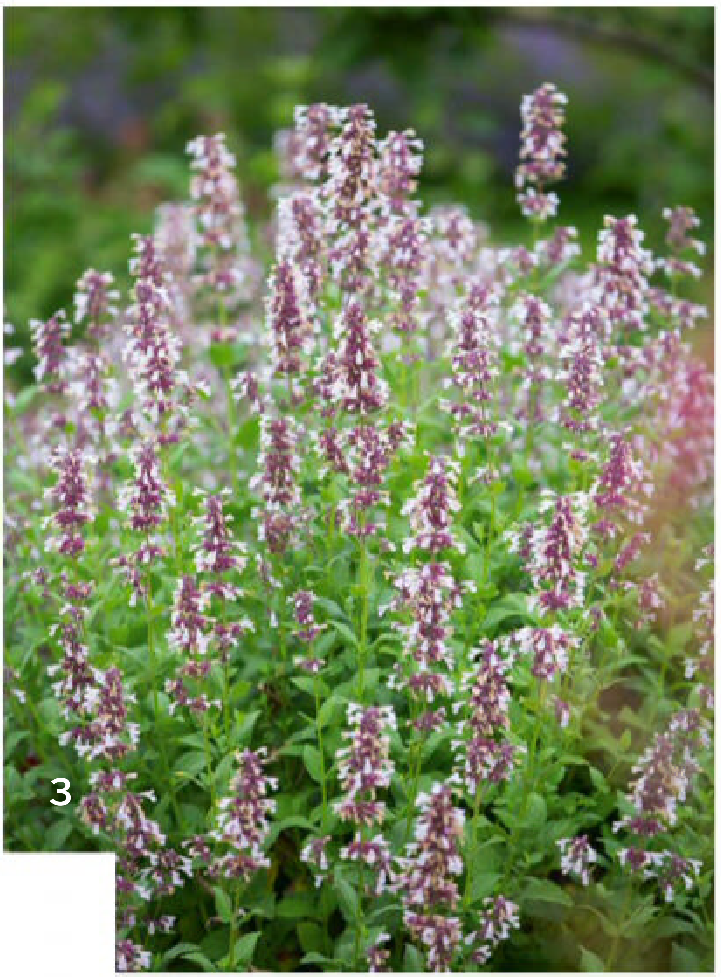
For the previous seven years, the nursery had specialised in daylilies and Jill and Richard wanted to continue with these. But the couple also wanted to add the plants that they love and champion, including around 100 named penstemons, as well as a good range of asters, geums, geraniums and other garden stalwarts.

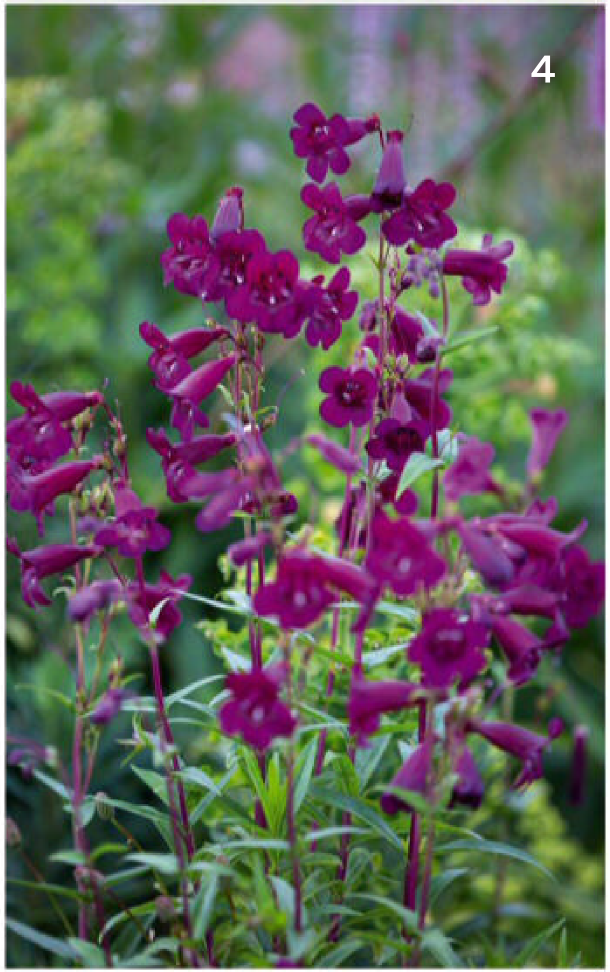
"We've chosen plants that are versatile, have a long flowering season, and a good range across the colour palette," says Richard. Unsurprisingly, these are all plants that work well in a walled garden, complementing the rich-terracotta colour of the brick walls. By displaying the plants here, visitors get to see examples of planting combinations and this gives context: "You can see what this little plant in a pot is going to become, how large it will grow eventually, which is important for the customer," says Richard. The range is not just about flowers; there is an emphasis on foliage and texture too as in the lime-green foliage of *Tanacetum vulgare* 'Golden Fleece' and the huge, scalloped leaves of poppy *Macleaya microcarpa* 'Kelway's Coral Plume'.

"The walled garden is as important to us as the plant sales and we've gained so much from being part of the Walled Kitchen ▷









16 KEY PLANTS

1 *Verbascum chaixii* 'Album' An extremely easy-going plant with white flowers and rose-red centres that is much loved by pollinators and beneficial insects. Need full sun and prefers free-draining soil. 90cm. RHS H6, USDA 5a-8b[†].

2 *Knautia macedonica* 'Mars Midget' While this cultivar is very similar to the species, it has shorter flower stems. Loved by pollinators, it flowers throughout the summer. "We'd argue it's our best plant for bees and butterflies," say Richard and Jill. 45cm. RHS H7, USDA 5a-8b.

3 *Nepeta nervosa* 'Pink Candy' A catmint with upright spikes of lavender-pink flowers that appear from June to September above grey-green leaves. 60cm. RHS H7.

4 *Penstemon* 'Pensham Plum Jerkum' This cultivar has a lovely colour and is surprisingly hardy and trustworthy for a penstemon. Wait until the end of April or May to prune. 70cm. RHS H4.

5 *Lychnis chalcedonica* 'Rosea' A beautiful and unusual-looking campion with delicate, rose-pink flowers on tall stems. Flowers bloom all summer long. 1m.

6 *Cephalaria gigantea* This tall, airy scabious adds a nice movement to the garden and will lift a corner that needs a little something. Works well against the red brick of the walled garden. 2m. RHS H7, USDA 3a-7b.

7 *Penstemon* 'Dark Towers' A penstemon that offers deep bronze-red foliage with contrasting deep-pink flowers that appear from June to September. 90cm. RHS H4, USDA 3a-8b.

8 *Eryngium giganteum* Known as Miss Willmott's ghost, after the gardener's habit of secretly scattering its seeds from her pocket, this sea holly is a favourite for good reason. It may appear where it wants and prolifically so, but it never looks out of place. 1.2m. AGM*. RHS H6, USDA 4a-7b.

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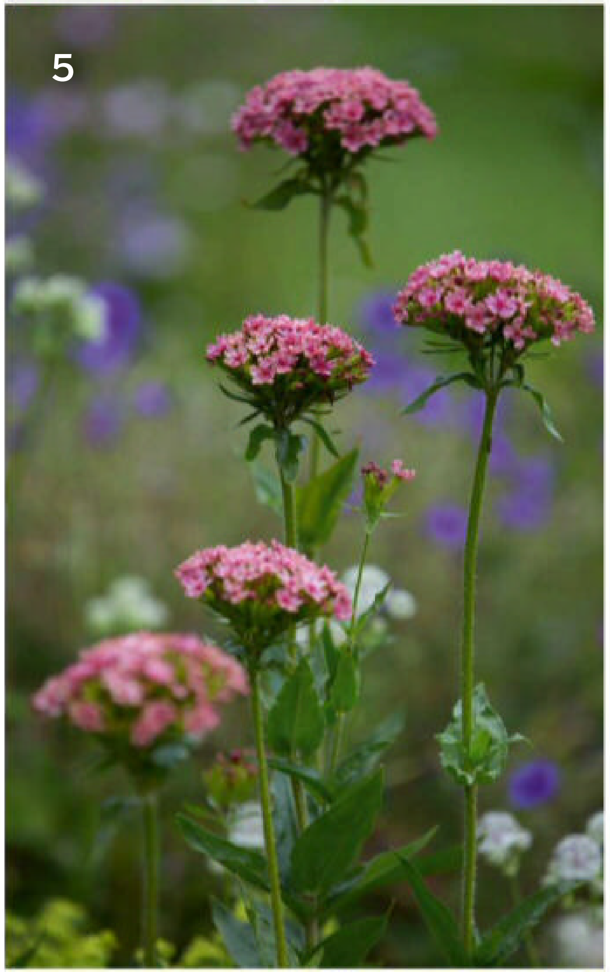
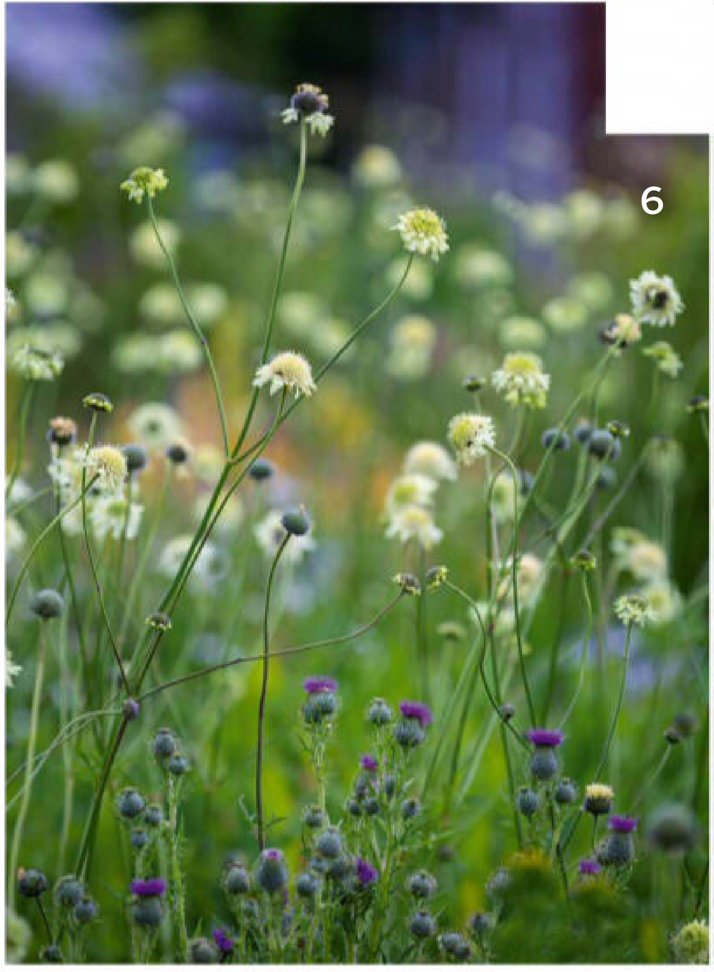
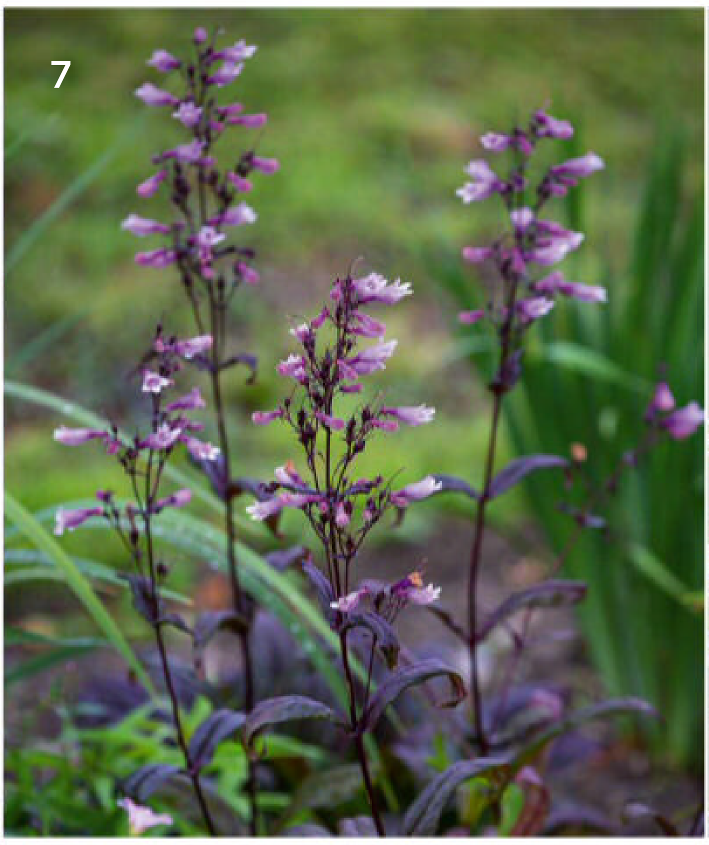
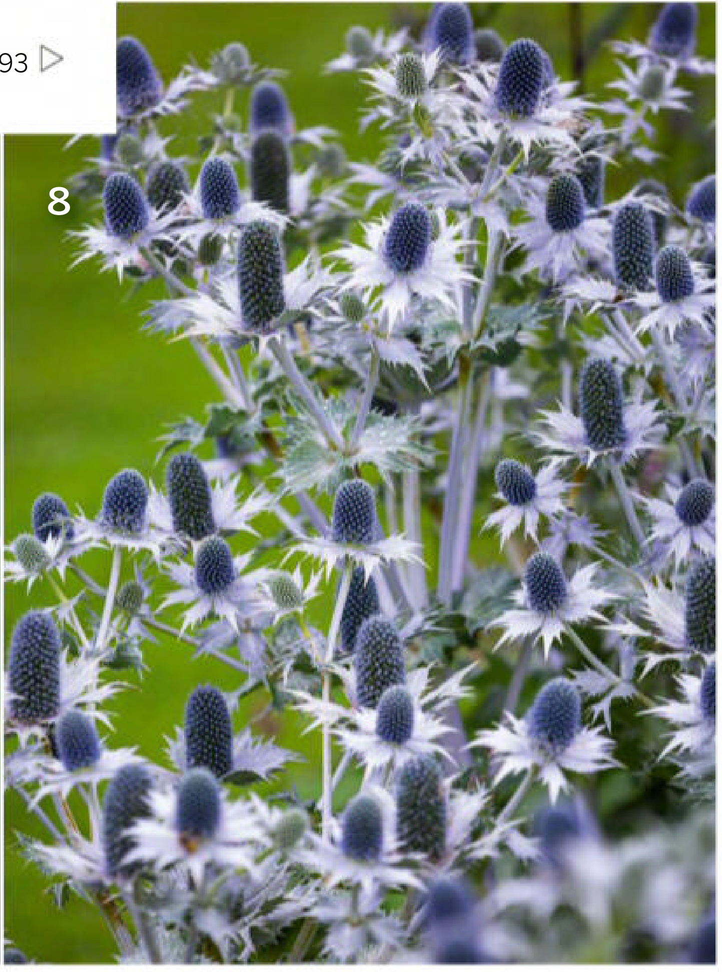
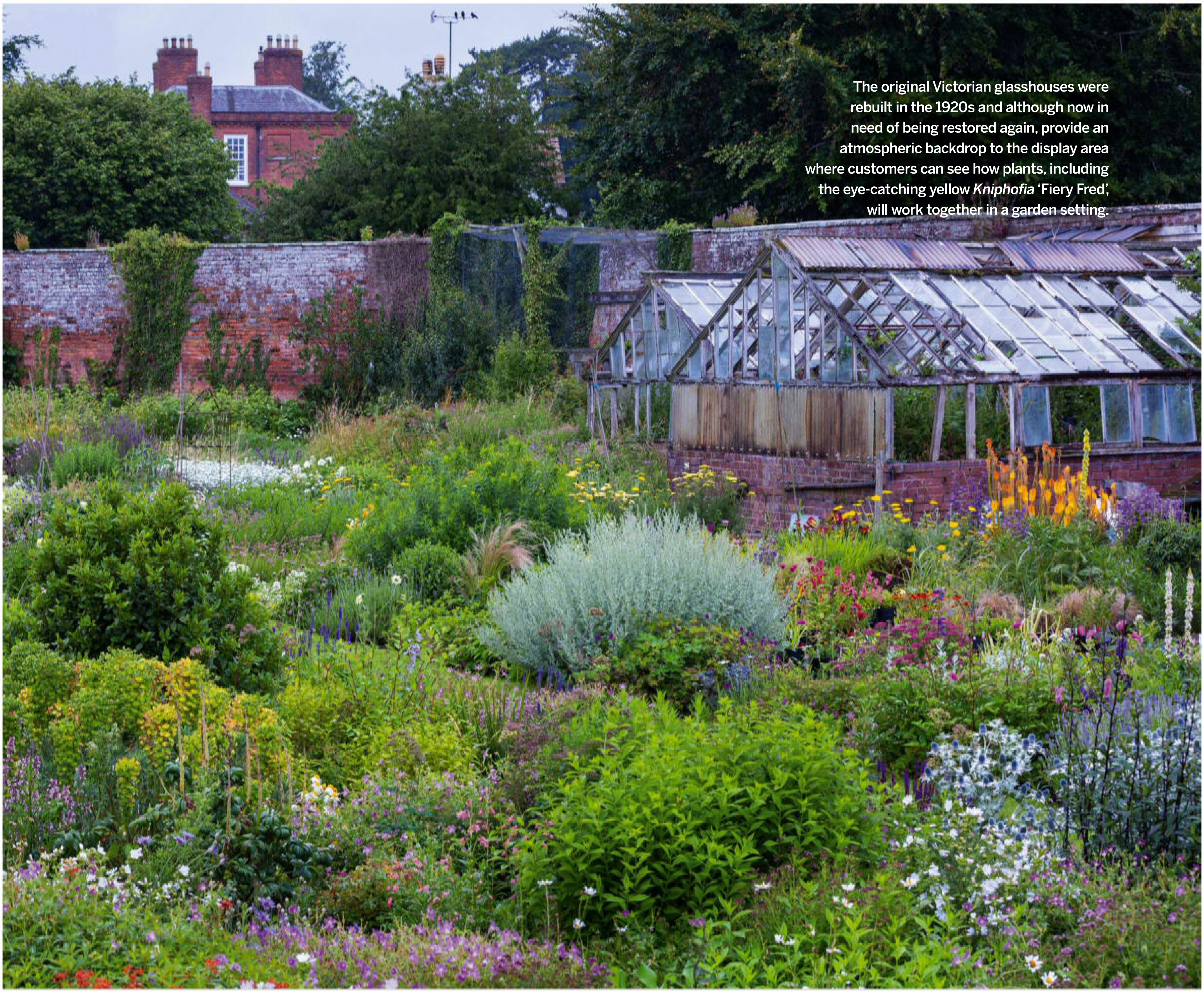










The original Victorian glasshouses were rebuilt in the 1920s and although now in need of being restored again, provide an atmospheric backdrop to the display area where customers can see how plants, including the eye-catching yellow *Kniphofia* 'Fiery Fred', will work together in a garden setting.

▷ Garden Network [a group dedicated to the restoration and renovation of historic walled gardens]," says Jill.

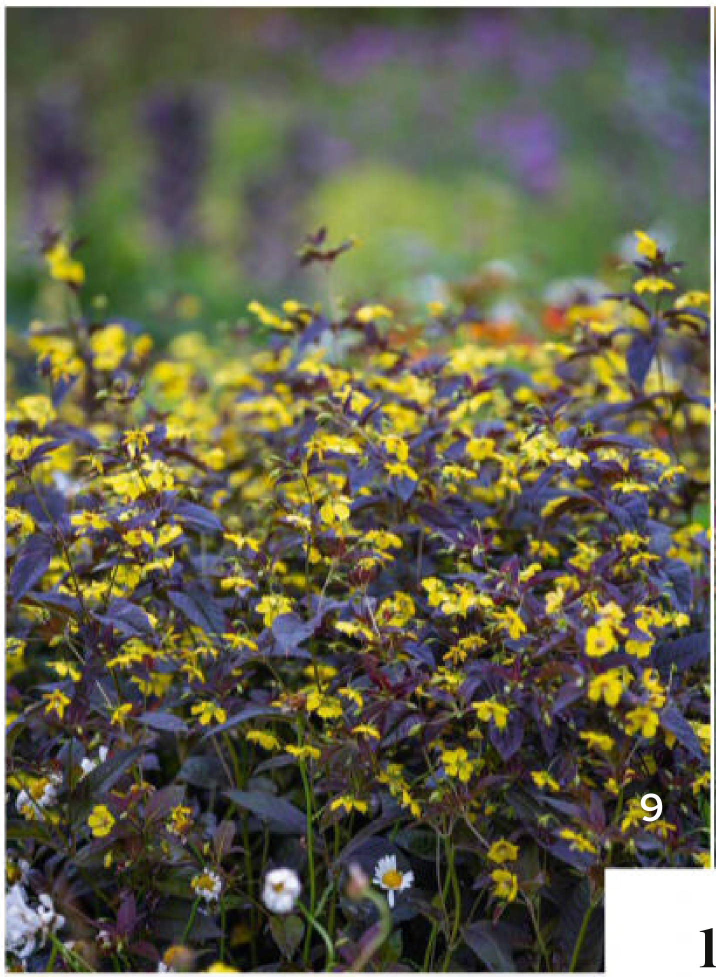
The couple is mindful that the restoration work involves a juxtaposition between creating a display garden and keeping the nostalgia of the place. "It would have looked very different in its heyday as a working walled garden," says Richard,"but we've tried to retain the formal structure within a more naturalistic and informal planting scheme." They achieve this with the likes of *Bidens aurea* 'Hannay's Lemon Drop' and grasses such as *Stipa tenuissima* and *Calamagrostis* x *acutiflora* 'Karl Foerster'. There's a strong emphasis on plants that will bring in pollinators, such as *Teucrium fruticans* and *Salvia* x *jamensis* 'Maraschino'. The latter is not necessarily fully hardy past -10°C, but Richard and Jill have a policy to grow their plants hard. "We remove the polytunnel doors in winter; it can even get down to -20°C degree here. We sit at the lowest point in the estate and it's a bit of frost pocket," says Richard. But that's good for customers because, as the display garden attests, these plants are tough.

For a nursery to be successful it must be business-orientated, but Jill and Richard are equally determined to have fun. "We might stop and have a cup of tea and a chat with a customer. It's such a pleasure to be your own boss," says Jill. "We have the freedom to make decisions about what we do and how we do it." This includes opening on summer evenings with wine and music, getting involved in charity days for the National Garden Scheme and Shropshire Historic Churches Trust, and inviting garden clubs to talks and tours of the garden. In the winter, when the nursery and gardens close,"it's just us. This is our time to work on the garden as we please," says Jill.

"Perhaps because we've come from other careers, we've got so immersed in this life," she adds. "We meet such lovely people, and learn so much from them, and that's a joy." It is the dream to get to garden this way and it's one that Richard and Jill don't take for granted. Perhaps that's why Mynd Hardy Plants truly is that secret walled garden, complete with a slice of happiness inside. ■

USEFUL INFORMATION

Address Mynd Hardy Plants, The Walled Garden, Delbury Hall Estate, Mill Lane, Diddlebury, Shropshire SY7 9DH.
Tel 01584 841222. **Web** myndhardyplants.co.uk
Open The walled garden and nursery are open until 15 September (closed Mondays, except bank holidays, and Tuesdays).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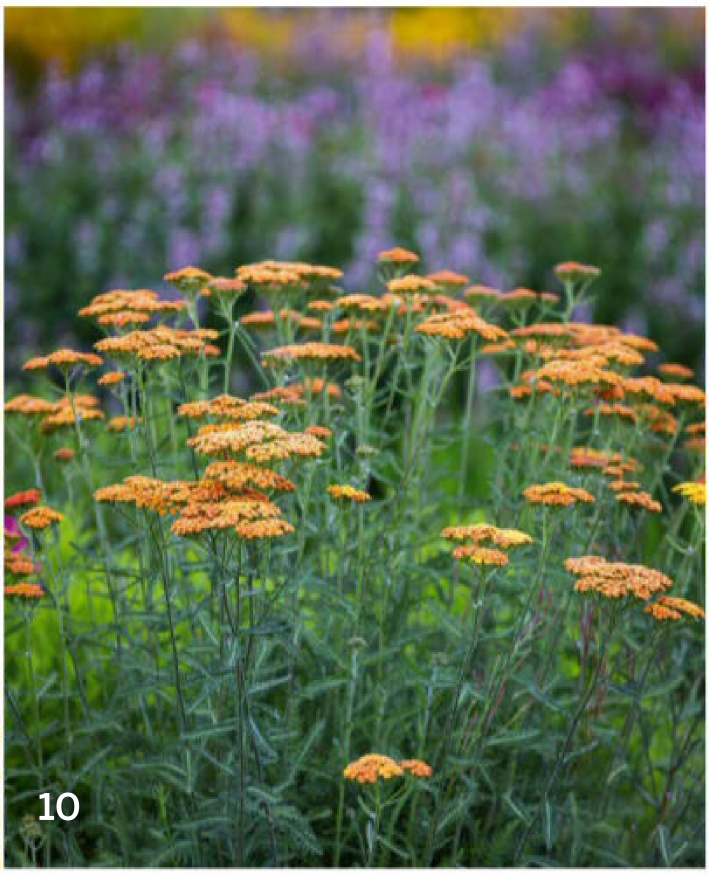
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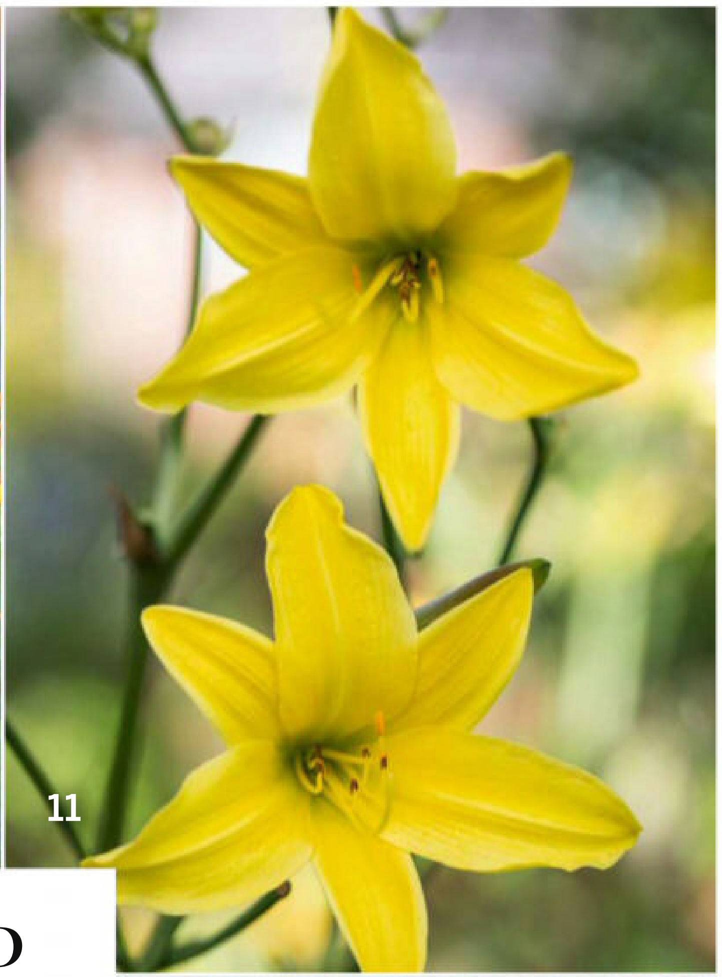
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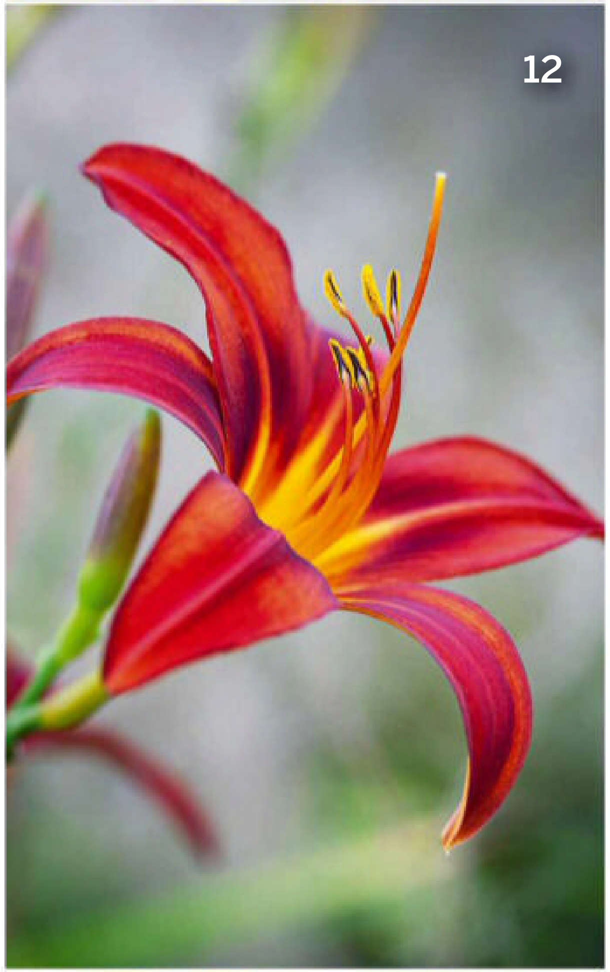
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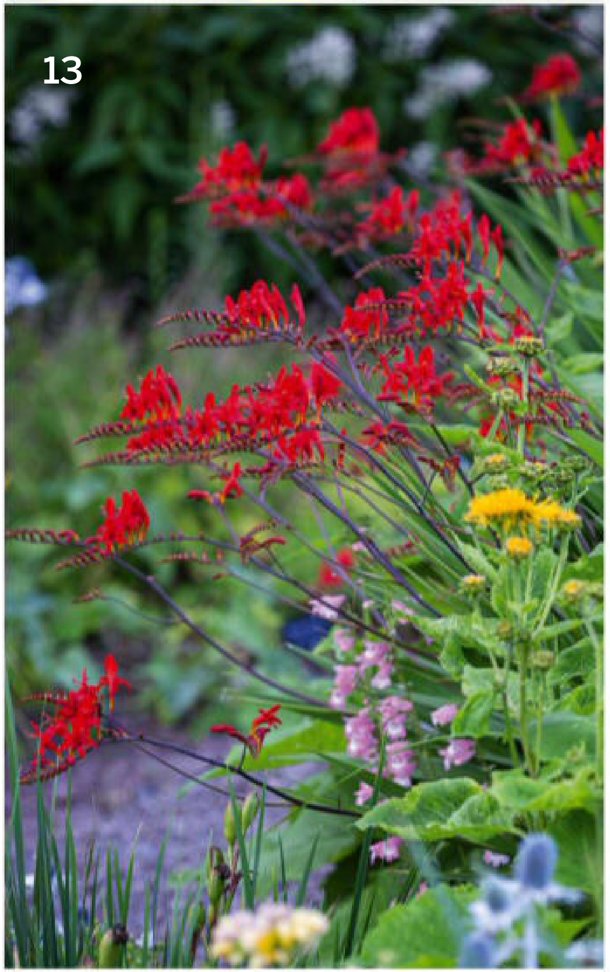
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16 KEY PLANTS CONTINUED

9 *Lysimachia ciliata* 'Firecracker' From midsummer until September this lovely loosestrife offers nodding, star-shaped, lemon-yellow flowers above attractively contrasting, lance-shaped leaves that, if grown in a sunny spot, have a deep-purple flush. 1m. AGM. RHS H6.

10 *Achillea* 'Inca Gold' Flowers are an unusual shade of terracotta that fades and changes to yellow across the season. Loves full sun and dislikes being overcrowded or shaded out. 75cm. RHS H7.

11 *Hemerocallis* 'Lemon Bells' A vigorous daylily with scented, yellow flowers that are carried on slender stems above a mound of arching, slender, mid-green leaves. Happy in full sun or part shade. 90cm. RHS H6.

12 *Hemerocallis* 'Sammy Russell' A striking, late-season daylily introduced in 1951 by the American breeder Hugh Mortimer Russell. Its beautifully marked, red flowers, appear above narrow, strap-like foliage from midsummer to early autumn. 60cm. RHS H6.

13 *Crocosmia* 'Lucifer' A great perennial for a hot border, with arching sprays of bold, funnel-shaped, red flowers in August and September and attractive, mid-green foliage. 1.2m. AGM. RHS H5, USDA 5a-9b.

14 *Veronica longifolia* 'Blue John' This clump-forming speedwell cultivar has deep-blue, nectar-rich flowers from June to November, making it an excellent plant for the bees. 1.2m. RHS H7, USDA 4a-8b.

15 *Tanacetum vulgare* 'Golden Fleece' Although this tansy cultivar offers small, yellow flowers that are much loved by pollinators, its real draw is the vibrant, golden-green foliage, which contrasts well with maroon or purple plants. 50cm. RHS H7.

16 *Echinops ritro* Given a suitably sunny spot, this vigorous globe thistle can cope with even the poorest soil. Its handsome, steel-blue heads are held on tall stems above prickly, silvery foliage. 1.2m. RHS H7, USDA 3a-8b.

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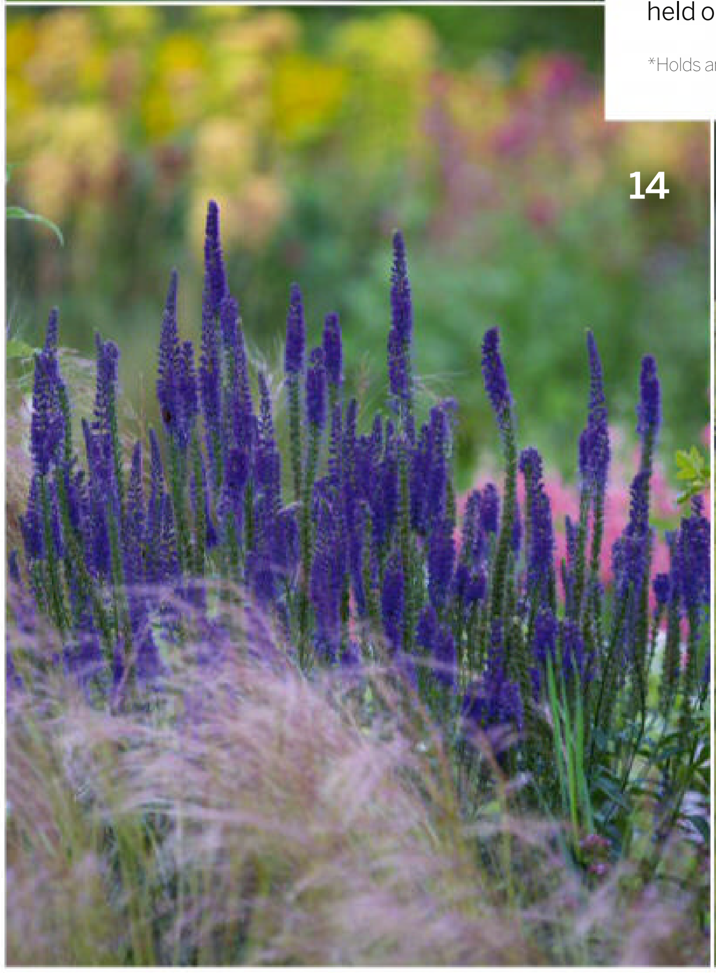
*Holds an Award of Garden Merit from the Royal Horticultural Society. †Hardiness ratings given where available.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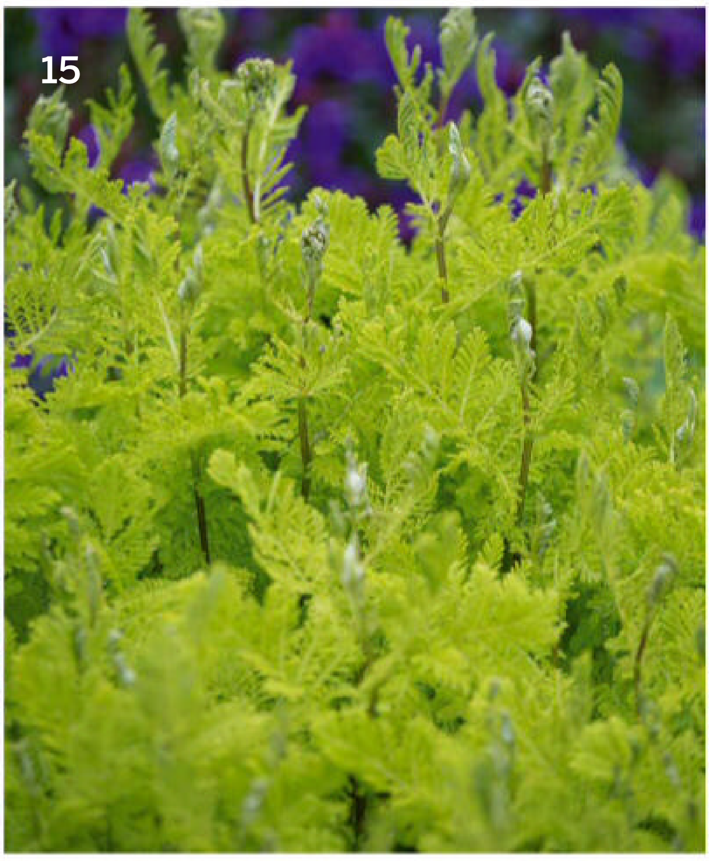
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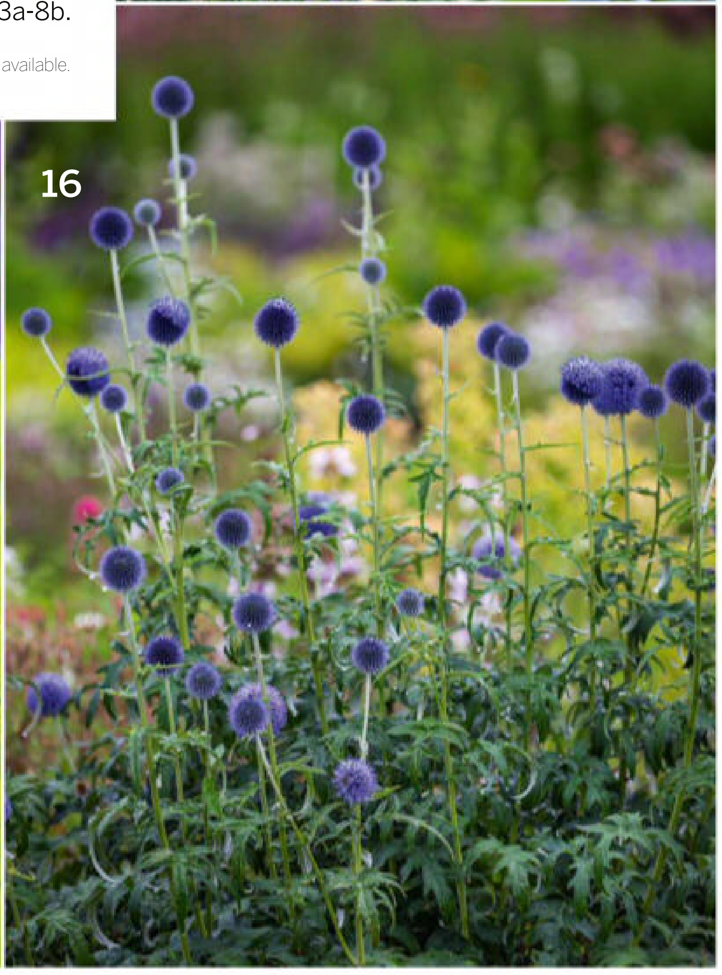
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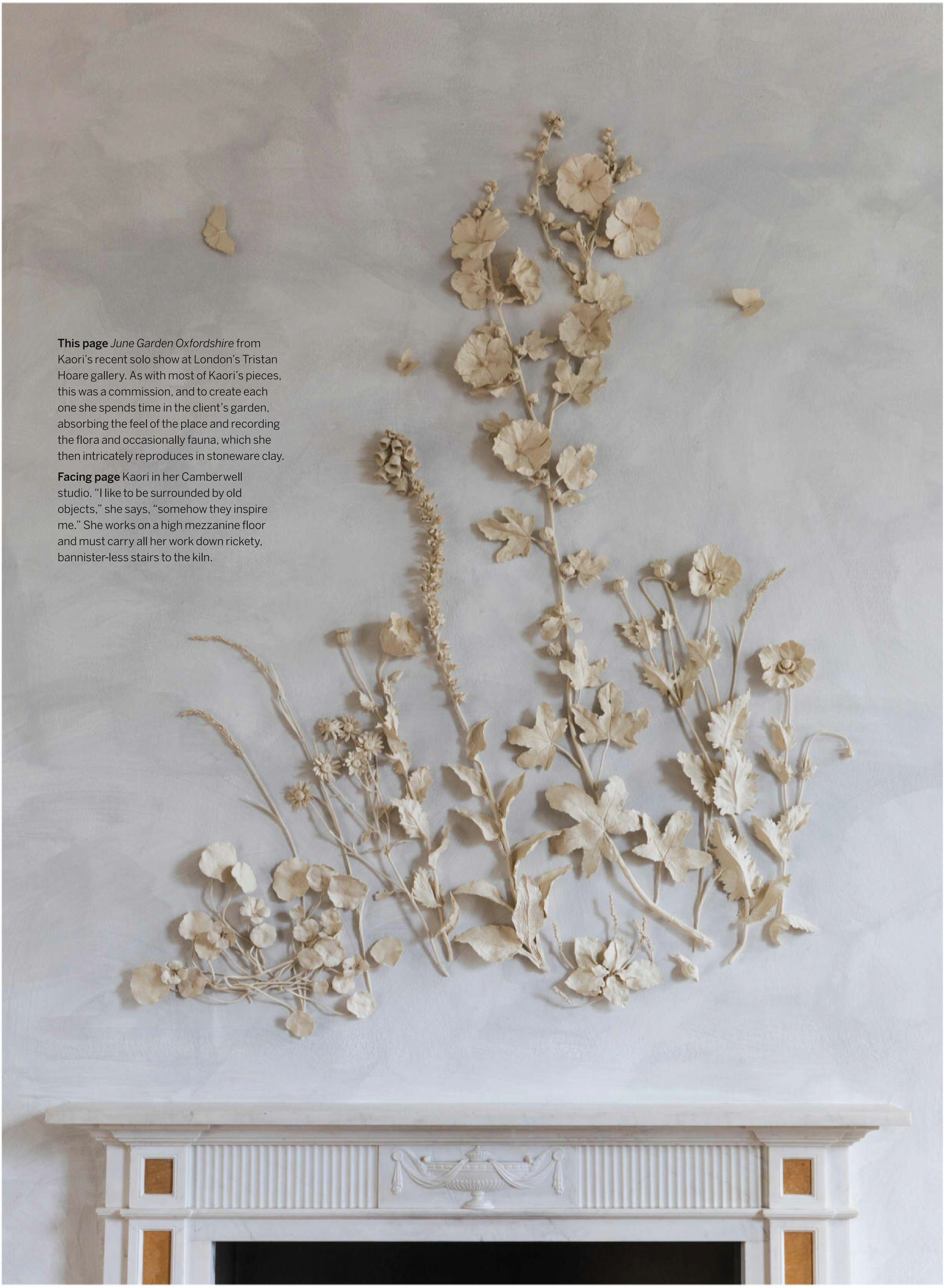
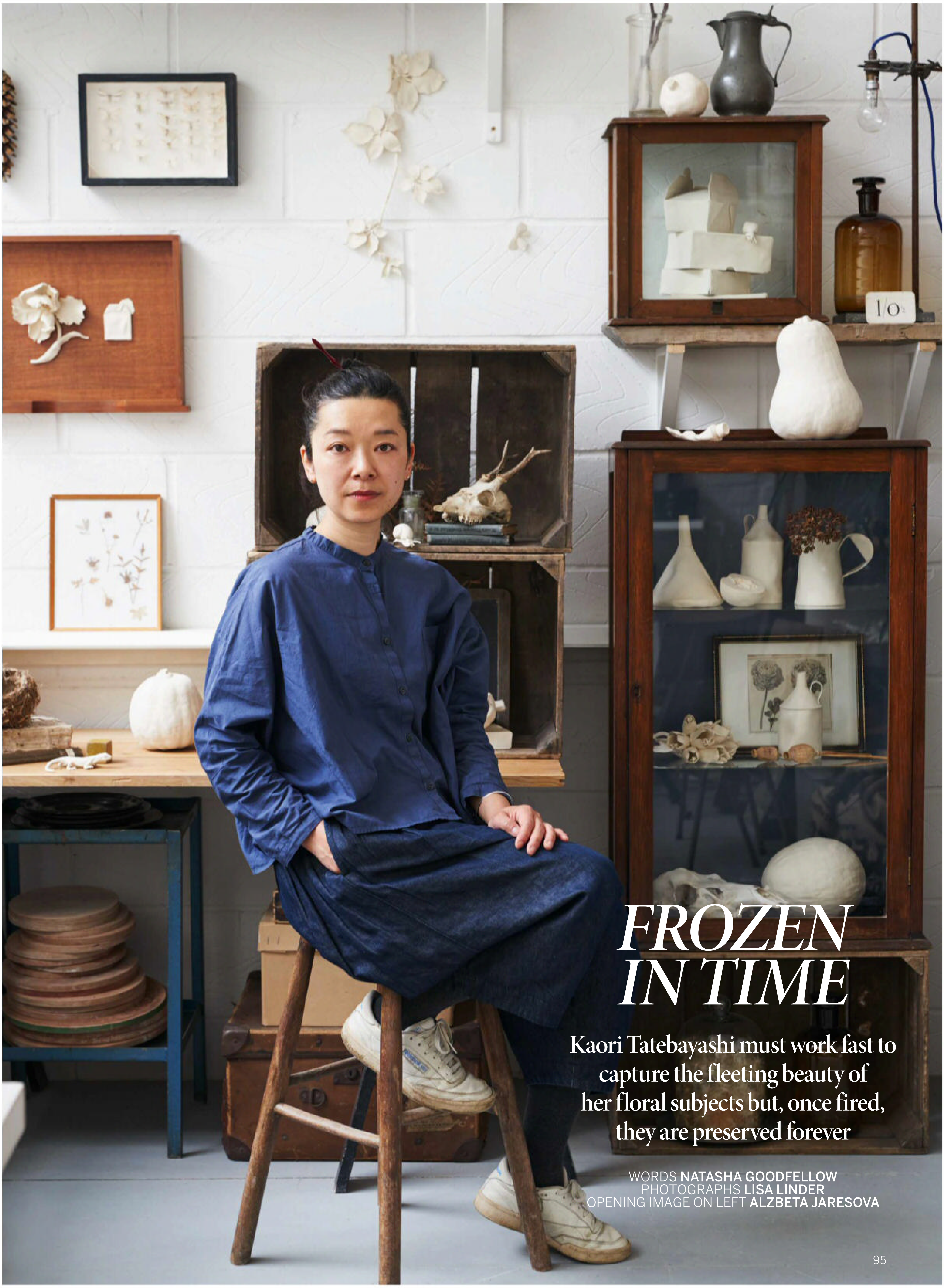


This page *June Garden Oxfordshire* from Kaori's recent solo show at London's Tristan Hoare gallery. As with most of Kaori's pieces, this was a commission, and to create each one she spends time in the client's garden, absorbing the feel of the place and recording the flora and occasionally fauna, which she then intricately reproduces in stoneware clay.

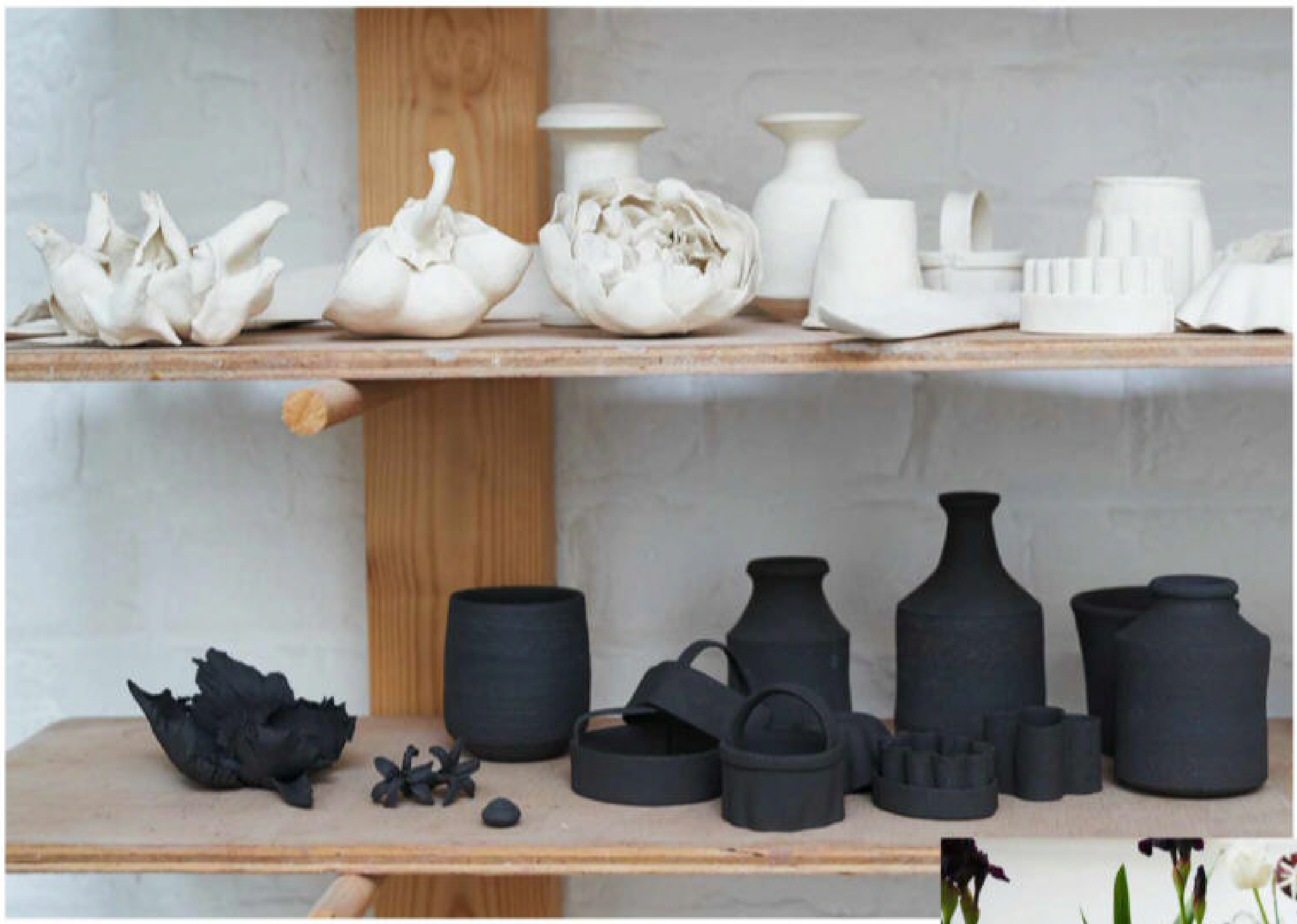
Facing page Kaori in her Camberwell studio. "I like to be surrounded by old objects," she says, "somehow they inspire me." She works on a high mezzanine floor and must carry all her work down rickety, bannister-less stairs to the kiln.

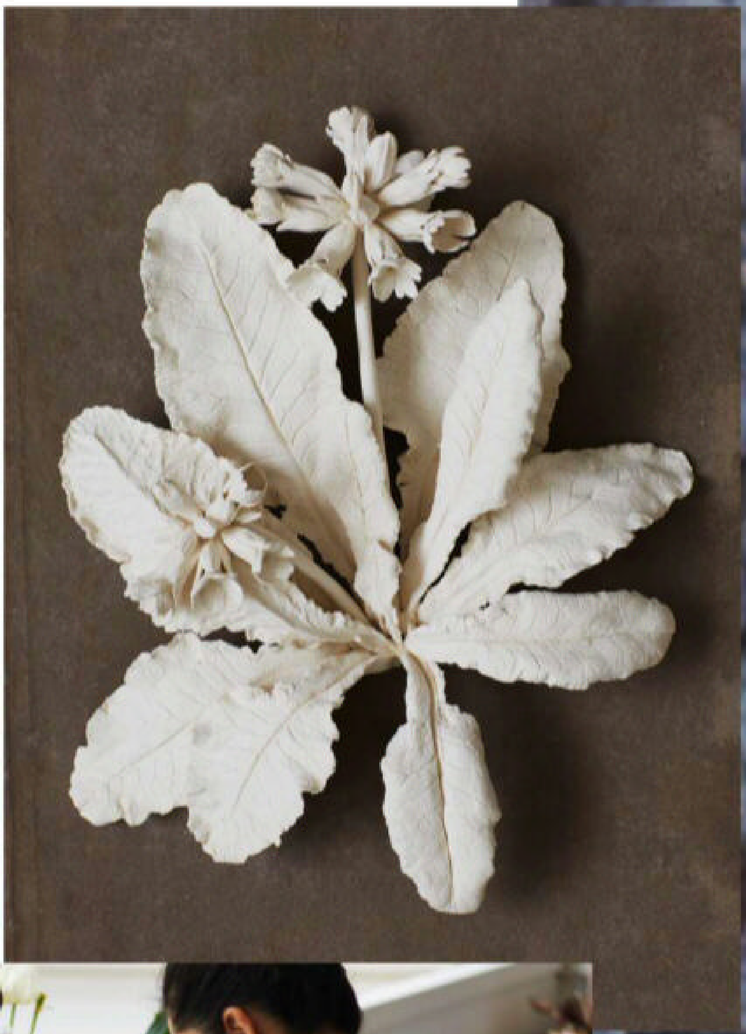


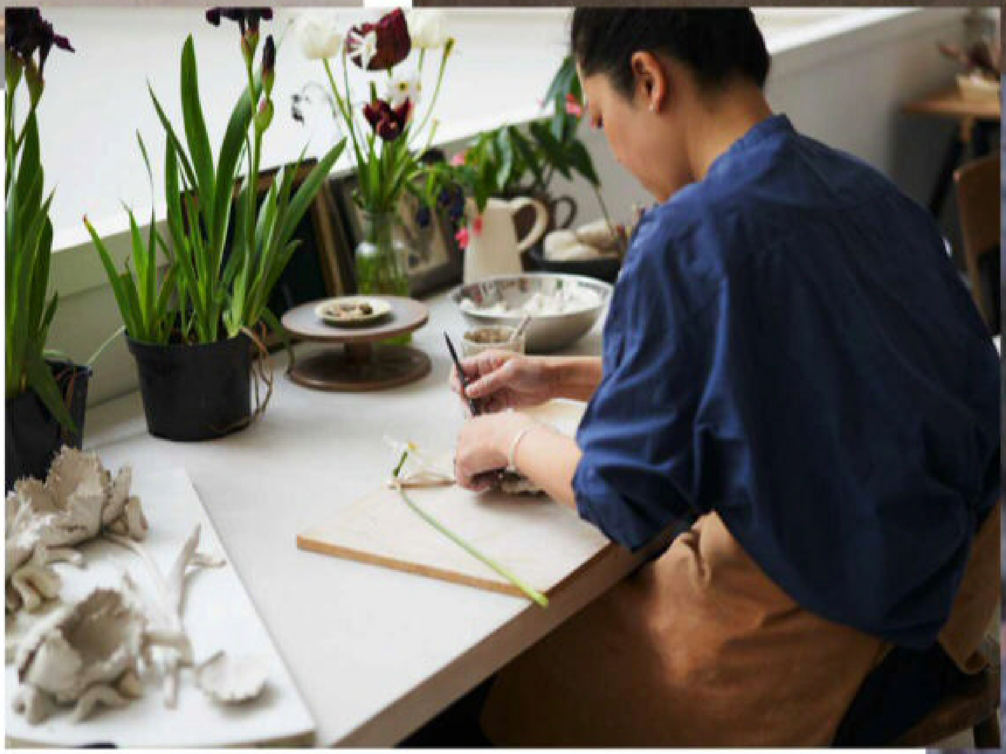
FROZEN IN TIME

Kaori Tatebayashi must work fast to capture the fleeting beauty of her floral subjects but, once fired, they are preserved forever

WORDS **NATASHA GOODFELLOW**
PHOTOGRAPHS **LISA LINDER**
OPENING IMAGE ON LEFT **ALZBETA JARESOVA**







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Before becoming interested in flowers, Kaori made objects such as clothing and, here, kitchen utensils in clay.

In all her work, Kaori seeks to capture the essence of the flower, as with this study of a cowslip.

Kaori often models plants from clients' gardens, though she sometimes works with specimens from her own garden that excite or interest her.

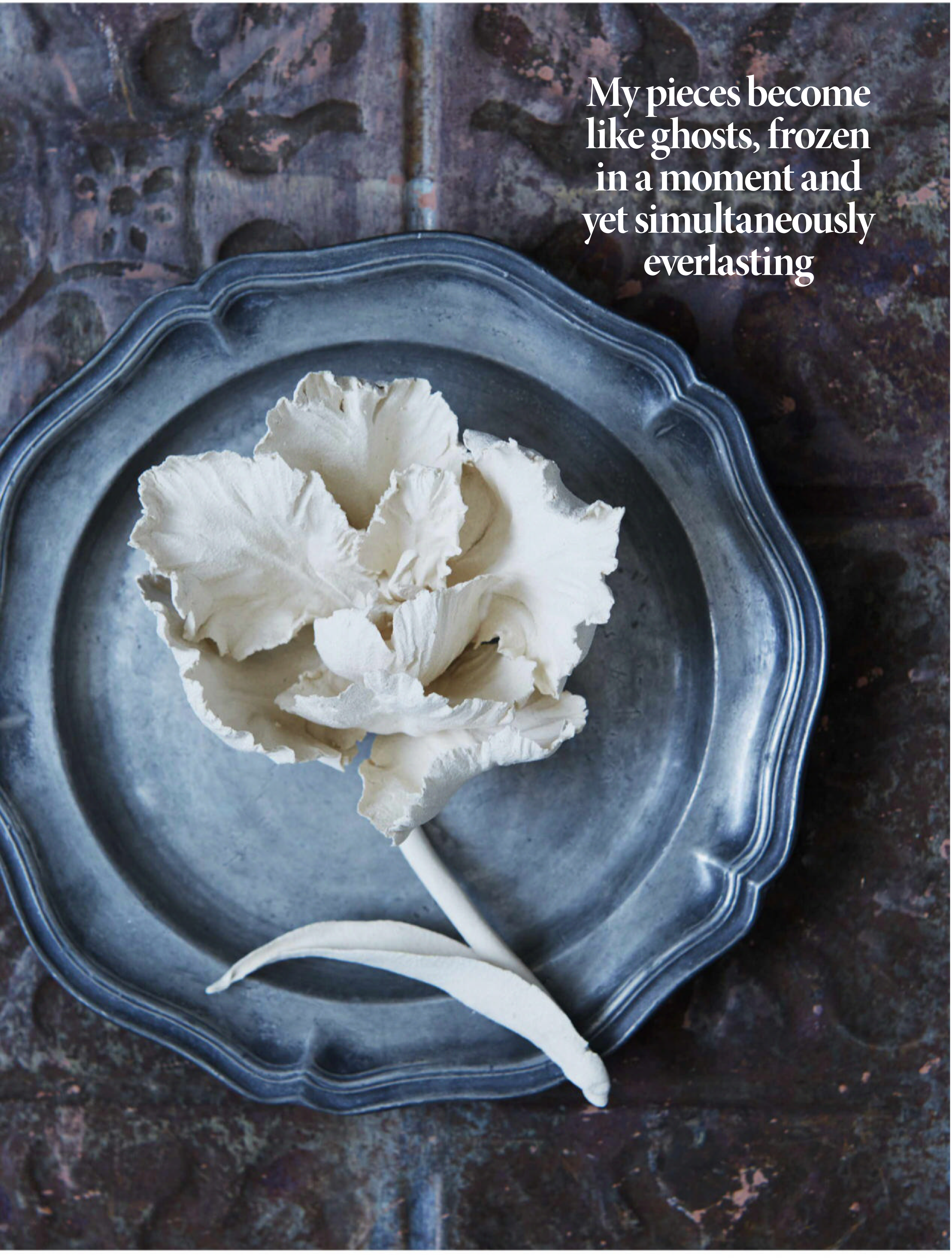
Kaori works with stoneware clay, preferring its texture and warmth to that of porcelain, which she finds too stark.

Facing page This parrot tulip, like all of Kaori's subjects, was modelled directly from life. "When a plant I want to make comes into flower, I start to panic a bit, as often the flowering season is so short," she says.

Ceramics run in Kaori Tatebayashi's blood. Her mother was a ceramic painter in Kyoto and her grandfather, who lived in the famous porcelain town of Arita, in Kyushu, southern Japan, was a tableware merchant. Kaori spent her childhood summers there, hiding in the straw in which the dishes and bowls were packed, hunting for fragments of old Imari ware in the river, and playing in the nearby quarry where the materials for porcelain (kaolin and feldspar) were extracted.

It's no surprise then that she went on to study the subject but, from an early age, she knew she wanted to do something different with ceramics. "So often ceramics are all about vessels and functional pieces," she says. "I wanted to see what else I could do." A Crafts Council touring exhibition of contemporary British ceramics opened her eyes to the possibility of using clay as a sculptural medium and, after a term as an exchange student at the Royal College of Art, Kaori began trying to recreate everyday objects – clothes, hats, shoes – in her favoured medium of stoneware. "It has a warmth that porcelain lacks," she says, "and I prefer the texture, too."

Today, working from her studio in a converted carriageworks in Camberwell, London, it is still this visual sleight of hand that occupies her, although now her gaze has moved on to plants. "As I developed my work, I always had a strong sense that the organic life of the clay stopped with its firing," she says. "After firing, my pieces become like ghosts, frozen in a moment and yet simultaneously everlasting, so long as you don't break them. I realised that by modelling things that had been alive to ▷



My pieces become like ghosts, frozen in a moment and yet simultaneously everlasting

Working directly from life, she has but a few short weeks a year to capture those blooms she wishes to make

This page, clockwise from far left

Kaori draws on a number of techniques. including slab building, coiling and hand modelling to create her lifelike sculptures of plants, such as this *Fritillaria imperialis* flowerhead.

Plants with thick stems, such as globe artichokes, often lend themselves to successful modelling.

Kaori usually uses two implements to create her work: a knife and a shaping tool. Here, she painstakingly models the petals of a pheasant's eye narcissus.

Facing page Most of Kaori's work is designed to be wall-hung and so she makes her sculptures, such as this hollyhock, in pieces, assembling them on installation.

▷ begin with – plants, flowers and insects – I would get a much stronger sense of time being suspended."

Kaori often wishes she could freeze time during the making of her pieces, too. Always working directly from life, she has but a few short weeks a year to capture those blooms she wishes to make – a solo show at Tristan Hoare gallery in London in May this year meant she missed the flowering of *Fritillaria persica*, which will now have to wait another year. Though she relishes a challenge – the pinked edges of melianthus leaves and the unbending solidity (quite at odds with the properties of the clay) of a magnolia branch being two of the most recent – there are some flowers she won't even consider attempting. "Umbellifers just don't work," she says, "and bluebells are very tricky, too. The pedicels that attach the flowers to the stem are too fine."

Her challenge lies not only in "extracting the essence from each flower", as she puts it, but in making them in a way that will survive the firing process, as well as transport and installation. To that end, she constructs her pieces directly on a kiln shelf, working fast so that the clay does not dry out, often making them in segments for assembly directly on the wall.

"I always like to visit the place where my work will hang," says Kaori, who now works mainly to commission, crafting plants from clients' gardens or flowers that have special significance to them. "The space around my sculptures is as important as the work itself." Asked whether she could ever envisage switching subjects, she demurs. "Even if I've made a flower before, each time it still really excites me. As long as that continues to happen, I think I'll stick with this." ■

USEFUL INFORMATION

Find out more about Kaori's work at **kaoriceramics.com**

Dawn digs deep with the help of **TURMERIC+**

As every keen gardener knows, kneeling down is part and parcel of the job, so it's essential to be able to comfortably bend your knees.

"I was **amazed**. In just a few weeks, I felt like I used to."

Being an enthusiastic horticulturist, it's only fitting that Dawn Schier unearthed the power of the plant world when looking for ways to keep her active so she could continue to enjoy her hobby.

"My interest in gardening was inherited from my father," recounted Dawn.

"My dad had an allotment and it was there that I inherited his passion for growing fruit and vegetables. For our family, it became part of an everyday healthy lifestyle that we all enjoyed."

Dawn began to have trouble continuing to garden when she noticed her knees were not as flexible as they used to be, so she decided to do something about it. It was this decision that led her to Turmeric+ from FutureYou Cambridge.

The spice turmeric has long been popular in traditional Indian medicine and is recognised as one of nature's superfoods. The key active component of turmeric is curcumin. However curcumin is not easily absorbed by the body.

The need for easy absorption is what led the scientists at FutureYou Cambridge to create Turmeric+ using the patented 'Curcuma Phospholipid Complex' formulation. It's thirty times more absorbable than standard turmeric and contains vitamin C, which contributes to normal collagen formation for the normal function of cartilage.

Dawn continues, "Although I eat a healthy diet and take plenty of exercise, I was finding even walking around the block caused discomfort. I decided I needed to find something else to provide a helping hand so I started taking Turmeric+."

"I was amazed. In just a few weeks, I felt like I used to. It was the only change I made to my lifestyle, so there was no other explanation for the dramatic difference."

Dawn is now able to fully enjoy her lifelong hobby to its full potential again, growing a wide variety of fruits and vegetables.

Whilst she reaps the benefits of all she grows, her favourite is asparagus. Dawn said, "I specialised in growing asparagus some while ago and the other allotment holders have nicknamed me the 'Asparagus Queen'".

"I love working on my allotment, it provides a good social life, but most importantly it's where I feel completely relaxed and can enjoy some time to myself."

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Turmeric+, was developed by FutureYou Cambridge. The company consults with a scientific advisory board including luminaries such as Dr Nicholas Shenker, a leading rheumatologist and chronic pain expert at Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Addenbrooke's). The formulation is thirty times more absorbable than standard turmeric, and also contains vitamin C which contributes to normal collagen formation for the normal function of cartilage.

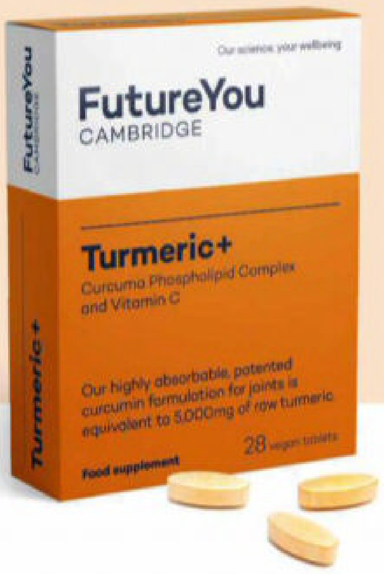
Since launching the product the company has continually received positive feedback from happy customers, particularly on Trustpilot, the independent online review platform.

'As far as I'm concerned this stuff is magic... Highly recommend!' wrote one 5 star reviewer. 'The product appears to meet all its promises and the service levels from FutureYou are first class,' said another.

'We're very happy to give people their first pack for free so they can experience it for themselves,' says Adam Cleevely, the company's CEO.

'It might sound bonkers but it really isn't. We're that confident in the effectiveness of our formulation.

'I can't think of a better way to convince people. If they like it, they will stick with it. Tens of thousands of customers already do.'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★ Trustpilot
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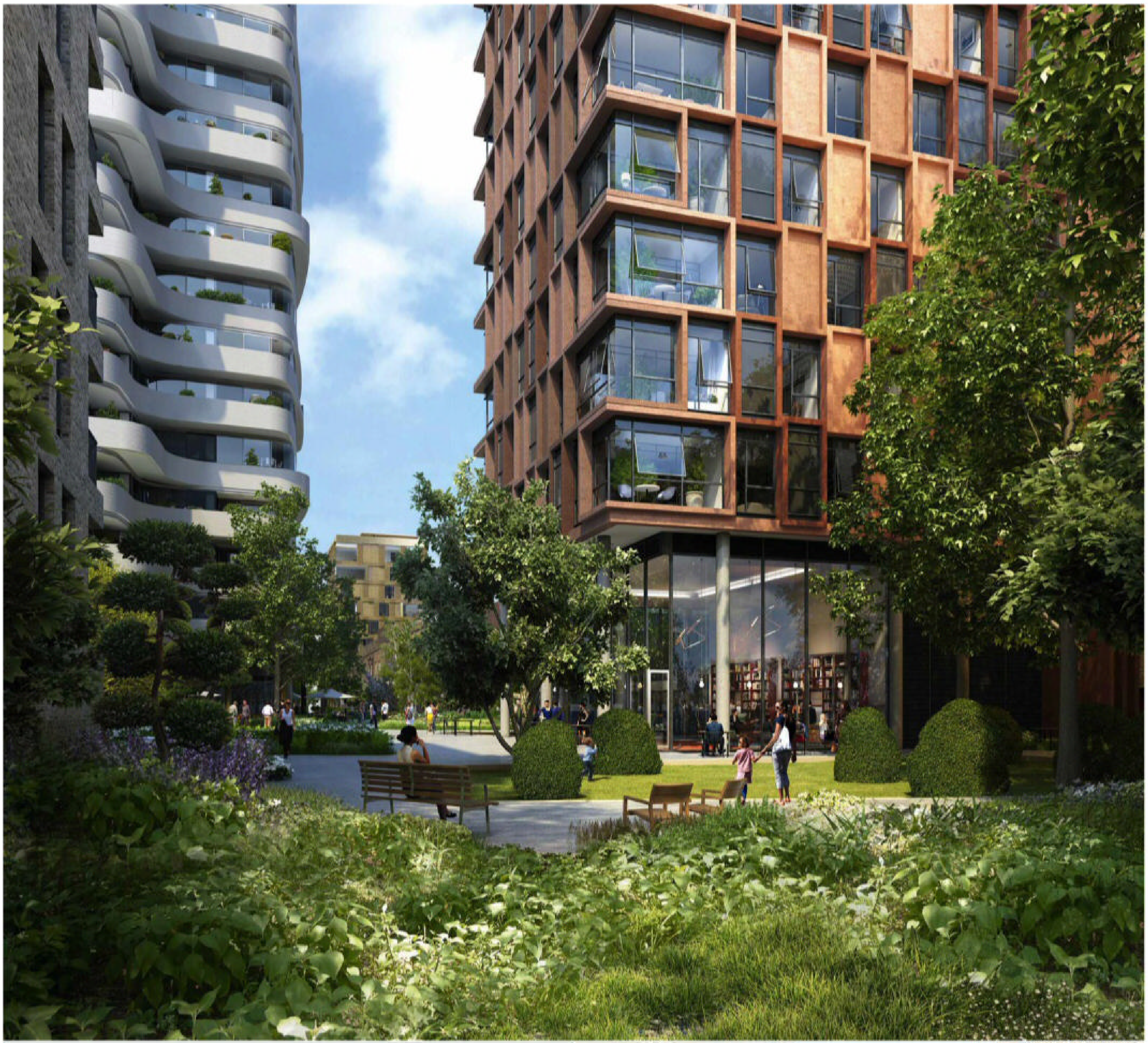
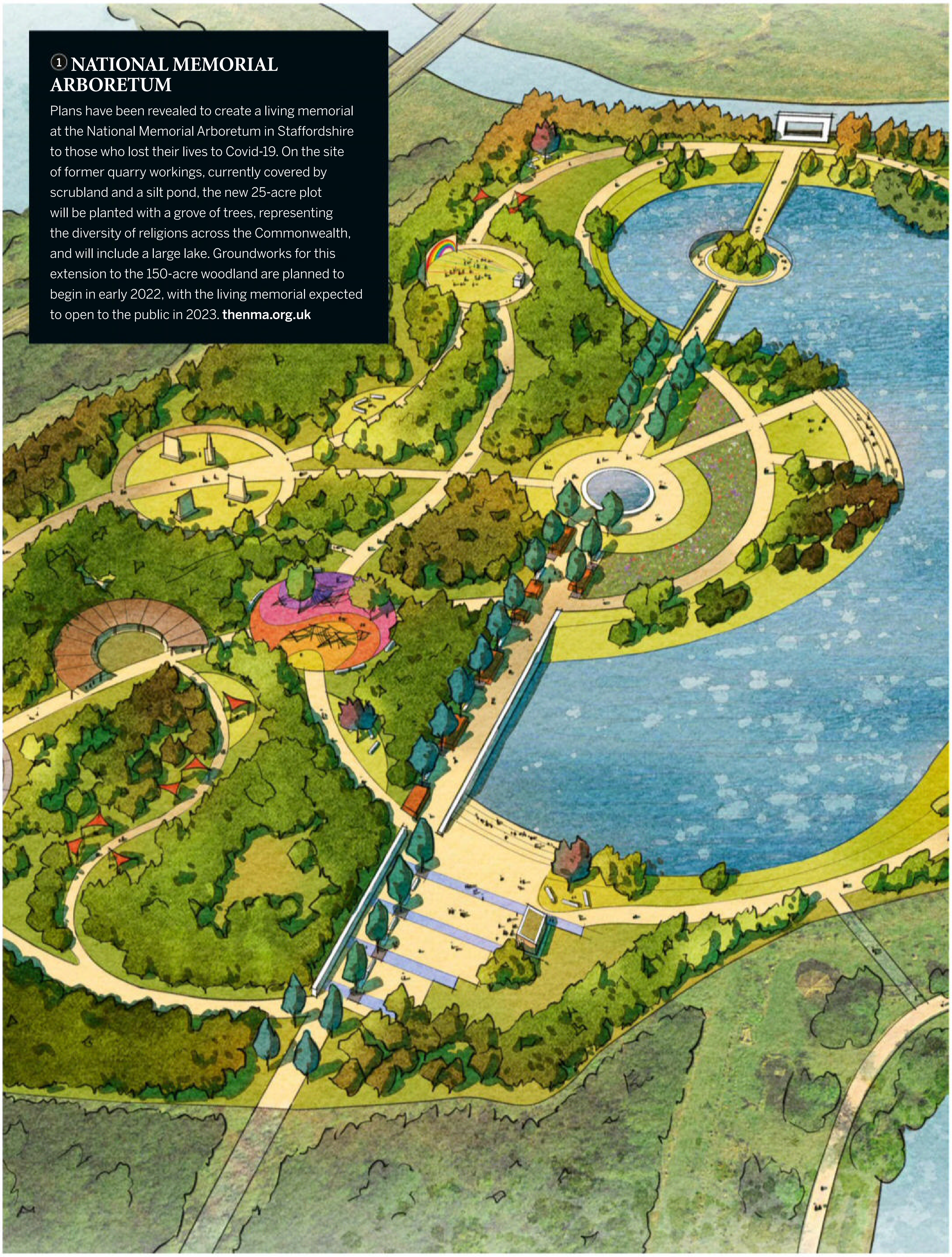


WHITECHAPEL ESTATE

Tom Stuart-Smith's studio is working with Adjaye Associates and PLP Architecture on the redevelopment of London's Whitechapel Estate for developers Londonewcastle. The new residential and office district will provide more than 7,000 square metres of open space, including a green spine with a high proportion of perennial planting and a mix of deciduous trees. Narrow paved areas will form clear pathways through irregular-shaped planting beds, then open up to create seating or gathering spaces. One side of a new mews-like street will continue the planting pattern while the other side will have space for an open lawn, large beds and specimen trees. **tomstuartsmith.co.uk**

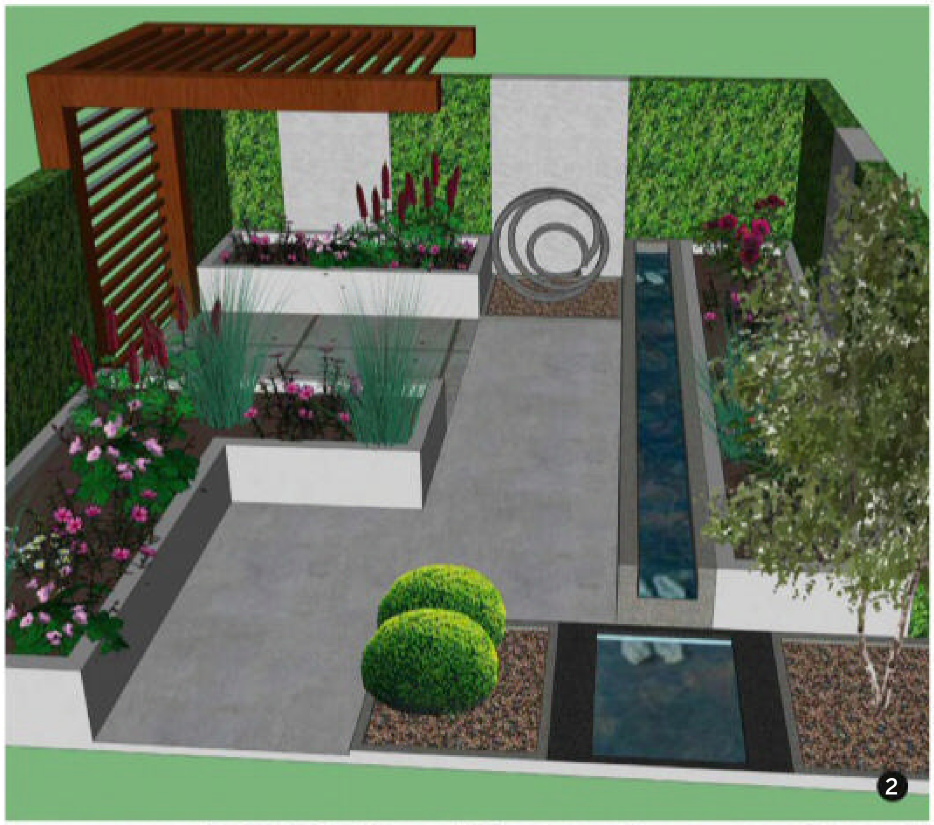
News

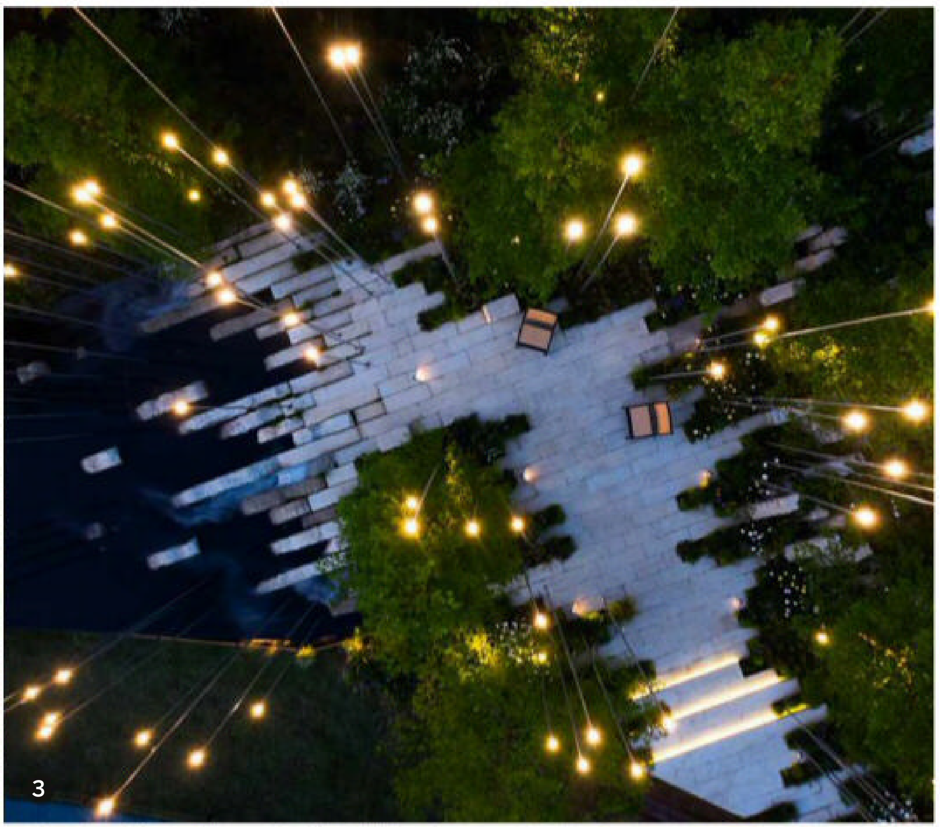
COMPILED BY ANNIE GATTI

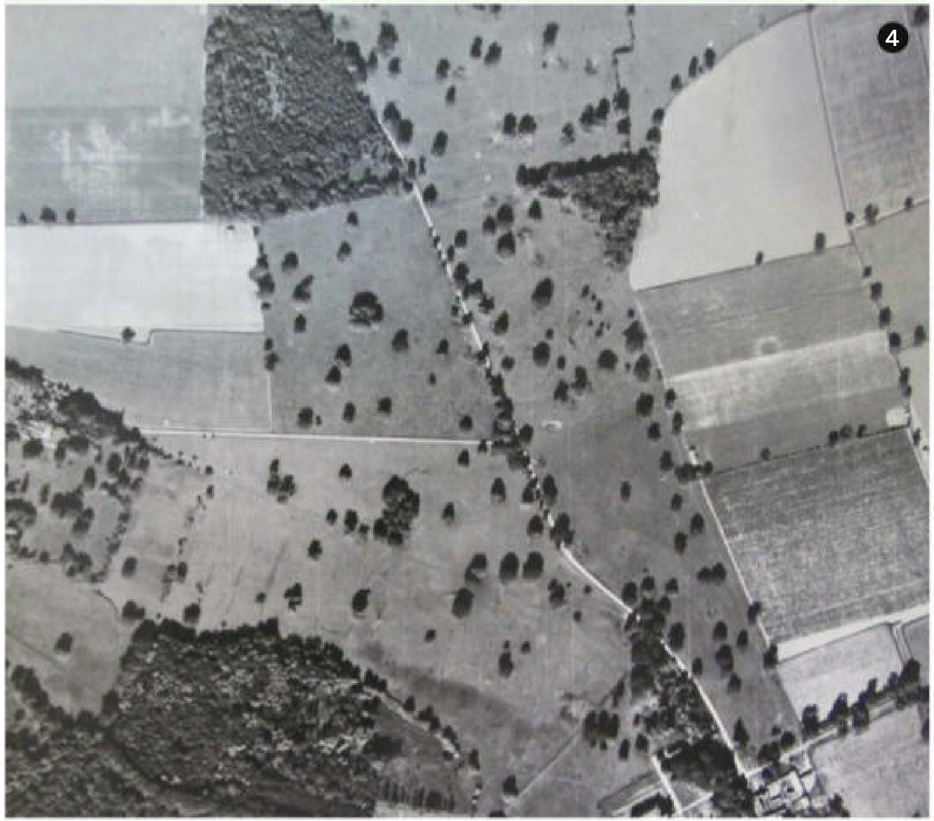


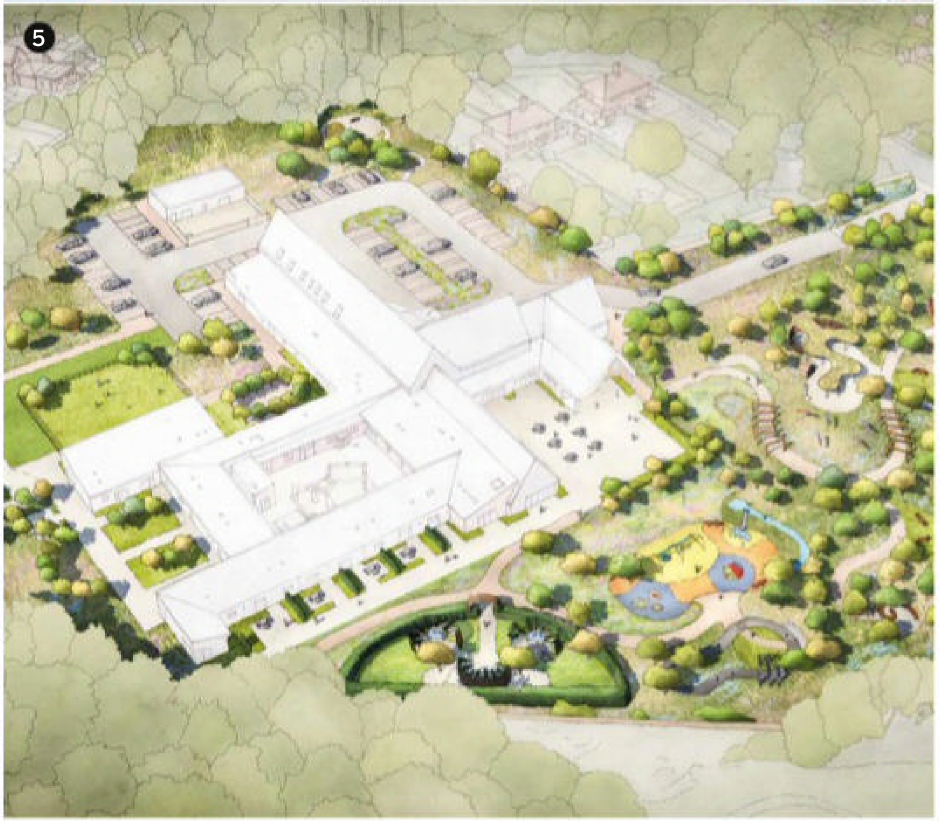
① NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM

Plans have been revealed to create a living memorial at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire to those who lost their lives to Covid-19. On the site of former quarry workings, currently covered by scrubland and a silt pond, the new 25-acre plot will be planted with a grove of trees, representing the diversity of religions across the Commonwealth, and will include a large lake. Groundworks for this extension to the 150-acre woodland are planned to begin in early 2022, with the living memorial expected to open to the public in 2023. **thenma.org.uk**









② GARDEN OF TRANQUILLITY

A new garden designed to provide a safe, sensory space for people with dementia has been installed close to the East Gate entrance at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Designed by Garden Design Diploma graduate Judy Good, the Garden of Tranquillity is an enclosed space where seasonal and scented planting, all grown in the botanic gardens and arranged in a series of geometric raised beds, helps to stimulate the senses. Running water, which provides a calming soundscape, is conducted in a rill, encased in Corten steel and elevated so that users can dip their hands in it. **rbge.org.uk**

③ SHENZHEN FLOWER SHOW AWARD

McWilliam Studio won gold and best in show at China's Shenzhen Flower Show 2021 for a garden that explores the connection between space and form – and the interactions between woodland and water, land and sky. Sections of low planting soften the paved expanses, where people can sit and meet, and merge into woodland edges. Tall poles, arranged in a random pattern, sway gently in the breeze, while LEDs and mist sprayers on the poles further animate the space, and water channels reflect light and colour from the surrounding landscape. **mcwilliamstudio.com**

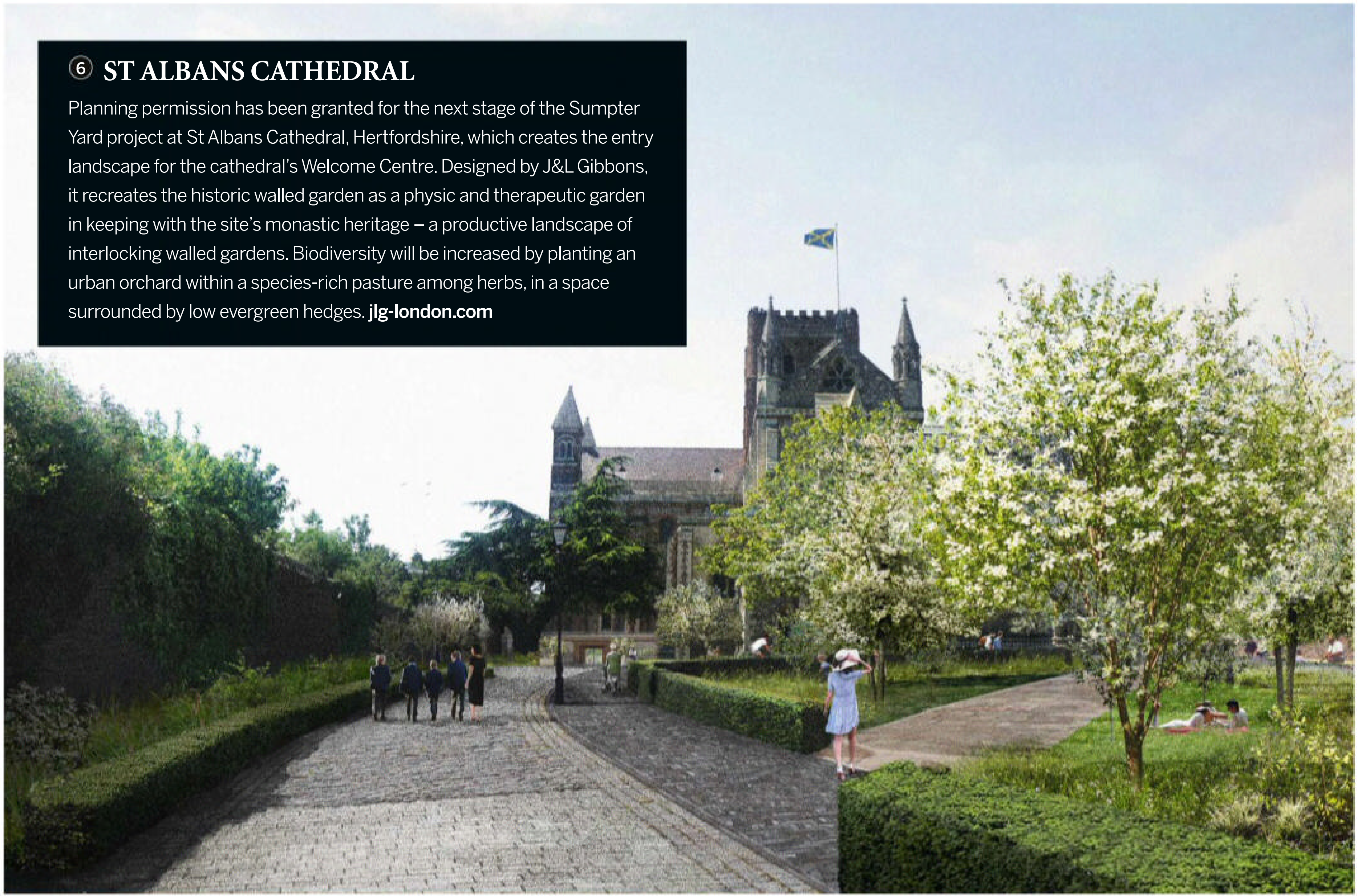
④ OXBURGH HALL

Using aerial photography taken in 1946 by the RAF, the National Trust is restoring the landscape at Oxburgh Hall, Norfolk, by planting trees according to the original 19th-century parkland design. The first phase of the project involves reseeding parts of the 175-acre area with wildflowers and traditional grasses, and restoring a further 22 acres of existing wood pasture. This winter 150 of a proposed total of 227 trees, which include the rare black poplar, along with white willow and oak, will be planted to create a species-rich, native wood that will help to increase biodiversity. **nationaltrust.org.uk/oxburgh-hall**

⑤ THE NOOK, GREENFINGERS

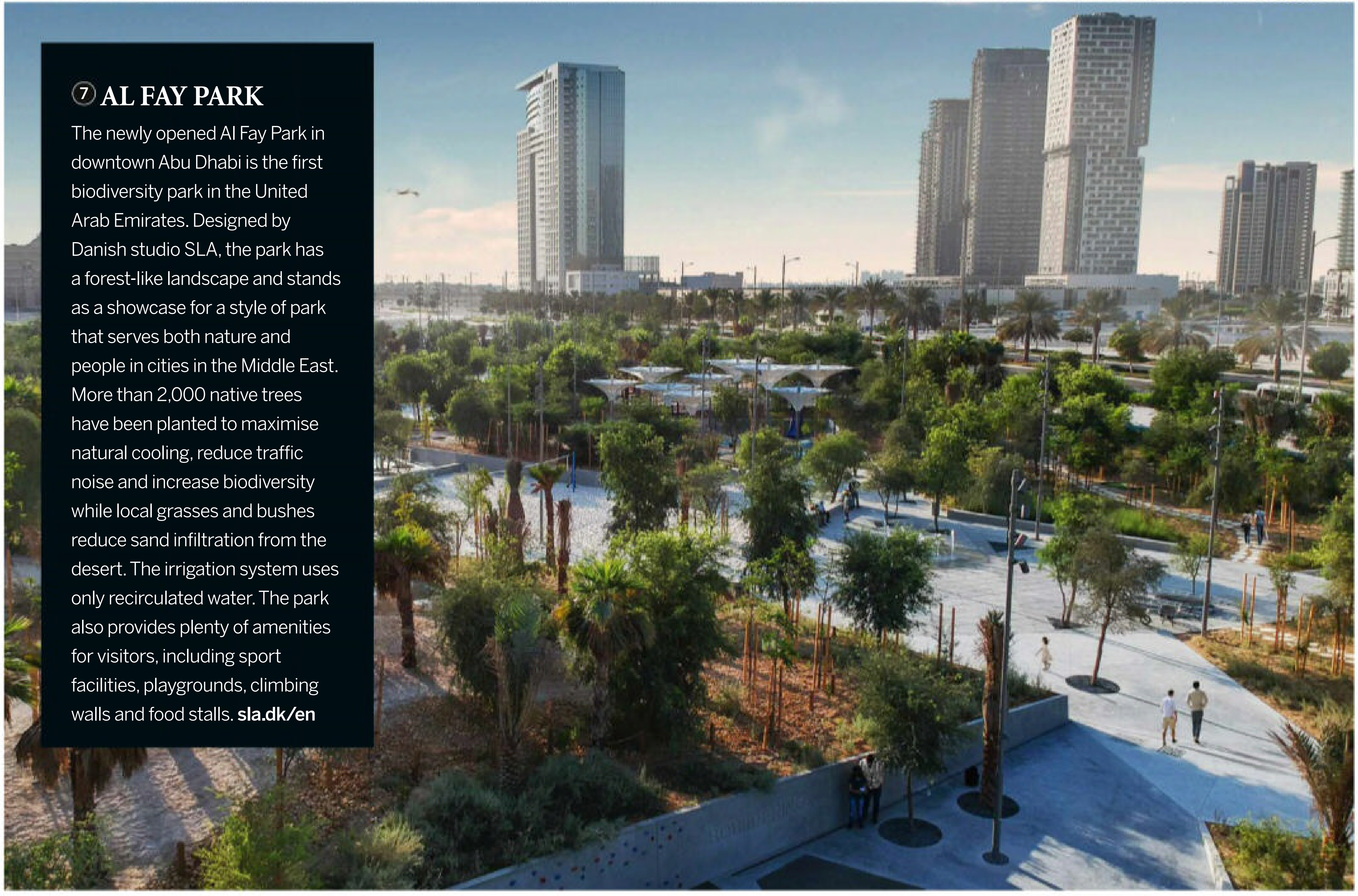
Gardening charity Greenfingers has revealed designer Ann-Marie Powell's masterplan for a new garden for The Nook children's hospice in Norfolk. The plan provides a series of places for the children to explore, and includes a racetrack for wheelchairs and a meadow and orchard, which are accessible by winding pathways. There are also play areas, a forest school, an outdoor classroom with a green roof, wind mobiles and quieter corners where families can relax together. Work on the Greenfingers garden will start later this year. **greenfingerscharity.org.uk**

4 SARAH RUTHERFORD



⑥ ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL

Planning permission has been granted for the next stage of the Sumpter Yard project at St Albans Cathedral, Hertfordshire, which creates the entry landscape for the cathedral's Welcome Centre. Designed by J&L Gibbons, it recreates the historic walled garden as a physic and therapeutic garden in keeping with the site's monastic heritage – a productive landscape of interlocking walled gardens. Biodiversity will be increased by planting an urban orchard within a species-rich pasture among herbs, in a space surrounded by low evergreen hedges. **jlg-london.com**



⑦ AL FAY PARK

The newly opened Al Fay Park in downtown Abu Dhabi is the first biodiversity park in the United Arab Emirates. Designed by Danish studio SLA, the park has a forest-like landscape and stands as a showcase for a style of park that serves both nature and people in cities in the Middle East. More than 2,000 native trees have been planted to maximise natural cooling, reduce traffic noise and increase biodiversity while local grasses and bushes reduce sand infiltration from the desert. The irrigation system uses only recirculated water. The park also provides plenty of amenities for visitors, including sport facilities, playgrounds, climbing walls and food stalls. **sla.dk/en**

6 J&L GIBBONS; 7 SLA

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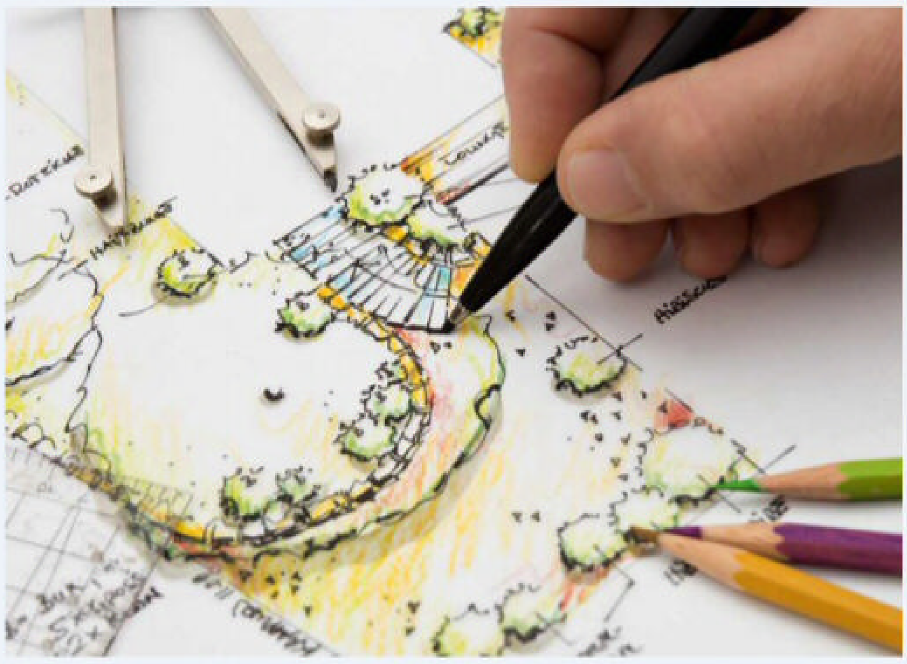

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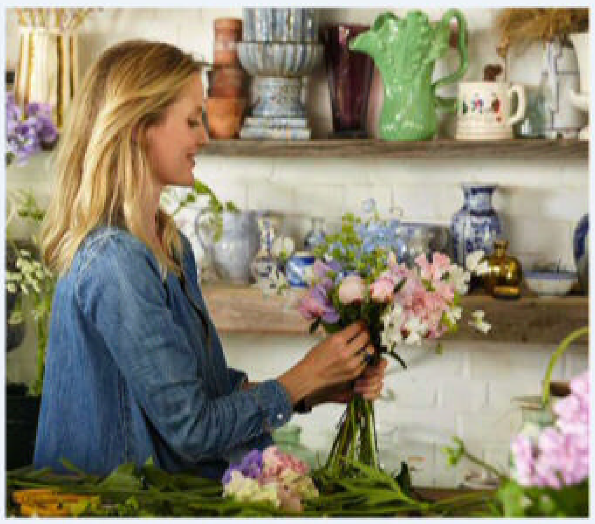

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THE LONDON COLLEGE OF GARDEN DESIGN

The Viking Cruises Lagom Garden at the 2019 RHS Hampton Court Garden Festival, designed by 2016 graduate Will Williams

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Our students have won the majority of Society of Garden Designers Student Awards over the past eight years and regularly graduate to work for some of the world's leading designers. Other opportunities include assisting top designers at the RHS Chelsea Flower Show and other shows and our free Graduate programme gives you extra training opportunities and the chance to design gardens in prestigious locations.

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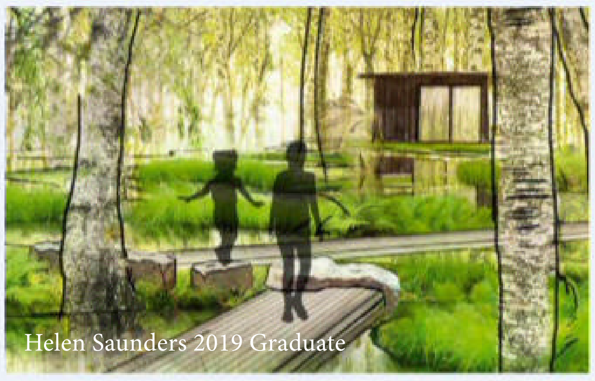
SHORT COURSES

As well as our own short courses in Regent's Park we also offer short courses in conjunction with the Royal Horticultural Society at RHS Garden Wisley and in collaboration with RBG Kew at our home in Kew Gardens. Each course concentrates on a specific element of garden design and is suitable for both professionals and the amateur enthusiast.

For more information please visit our website or contact our administration office on 01483 762955.



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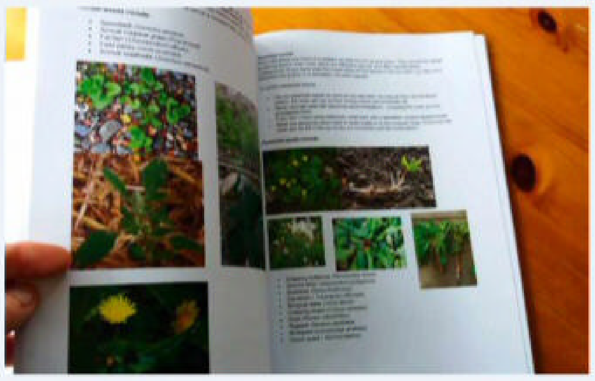
NEW Design options at Ryton in September 2021: study the RHS Level 2 Certificate in the Principles of Garden Planning in the morning, learning the principles of garden design and maintenance; in the afternoon the City & Guilds Level 2 Certificate in Practical Horticultural Skills takes you through practical surveying, drawing up a site plan, and develop a planting scheme. Two separate qualifications, or together a more rounded *Diploma in Garden Planning and Practical Garden Design.*



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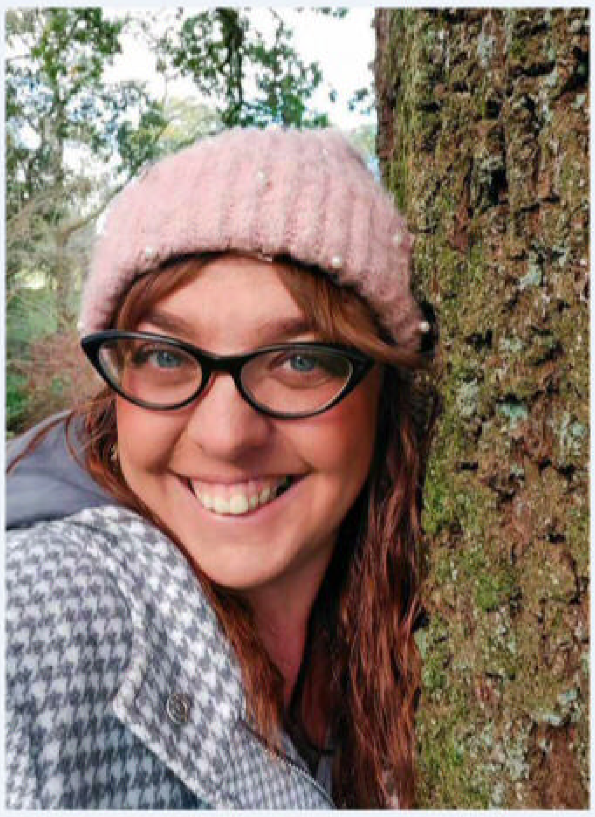
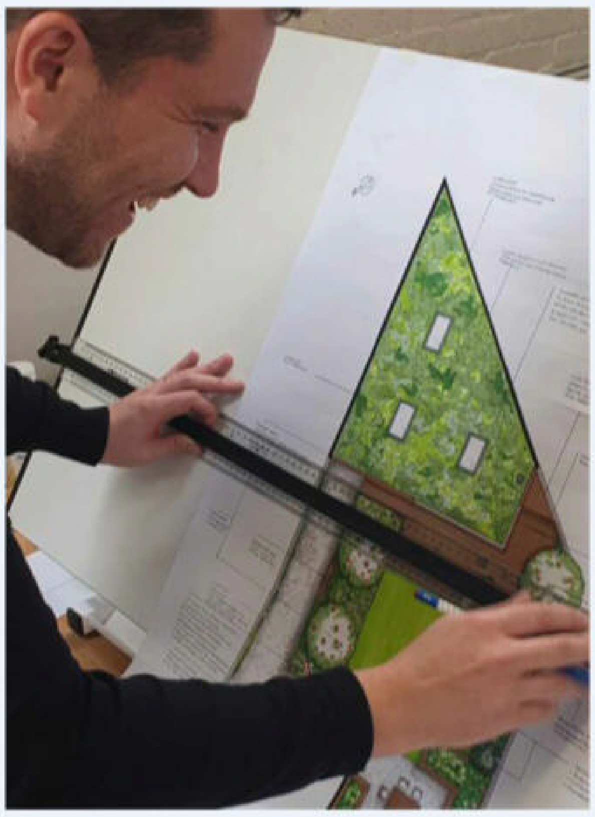
SCOTLAND'S RURAL COLLEGE





Scotland's Rural College offers a range of courses from NC level to Postgraduate in subjects ranging from Horticulture to Garden and Greenspace Design. Students learn at the Edinburgh campus in conjunction with the illustrious Royal Botanical Gardens as well as the stunning Glasgow Botanic Gardens in the city's bohemian West End. With degrees awarded by the University of Glasgow, the institution sees many of its students go on to flourishing careers, with alumni including the *Gardeners' World* presenter Frances Tophill.

The institute also offers a variety of programmes related to the land based industries with Wildlife and Conservation Management being a popular choice with mature students or those returning to learning and looking to give something back and engage with nature. Returners aged 25 and over can take advantage of the Change Your Path bursary of £1,000 to help with the cost of becoming a new student.

One recipient of the bursary, Kristyna Andrlova, changed from a career in the hospitality industry, to study Garden Design in Edinburgh her reasons for the change are "Simple yet complex. In my eyes, garden design means creating a piece of art, that consists of pieces of life. Life process fascinates me and I always wanted to create and help protecting environment. I think garden design encompasses all of these and so much more." Her plans after graduating are ambitious also, "I would like to get some work experience while studying and after graduation get a job in a GD/landscaping firm. Eventually, I would like to start my own business once I feel competent enough to do so."

Ana Basto, another recipient, switched from working in a warehouse to the HND Wildlife and Conservation Management Programme at the Oatridge Campus. "I've found each aspect of the course has increased my knowledge and understanding and given me a realistic overview of the field of conservation. The Change your Path bursary has given me the opportunity to focus on my studies for the last academic year, by supporting me with my finances and reducing some of the added pressures of studying full-time while working part time."

To find out more about the bursary or any of our courses visit www.sruc.ac.uk/courses.

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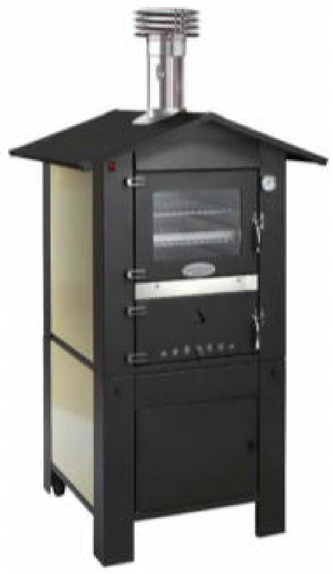
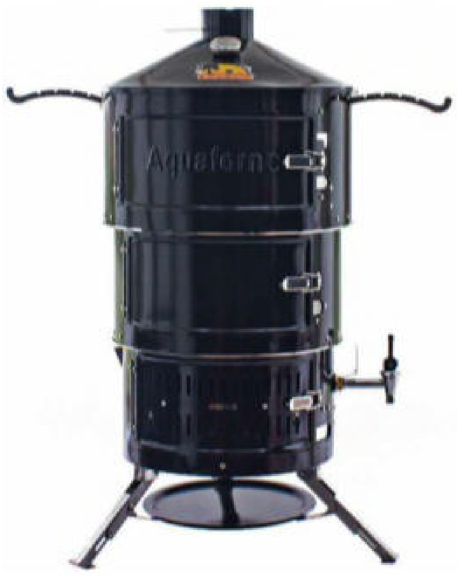
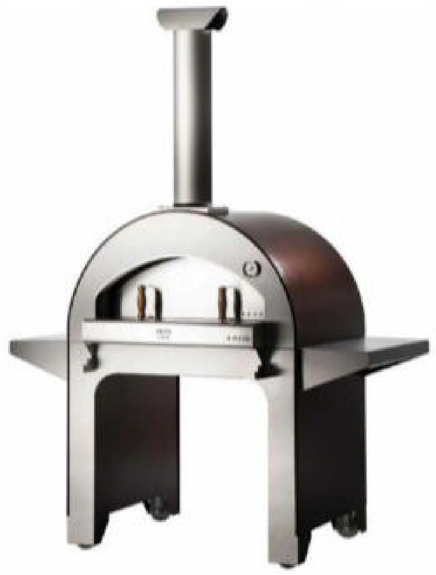


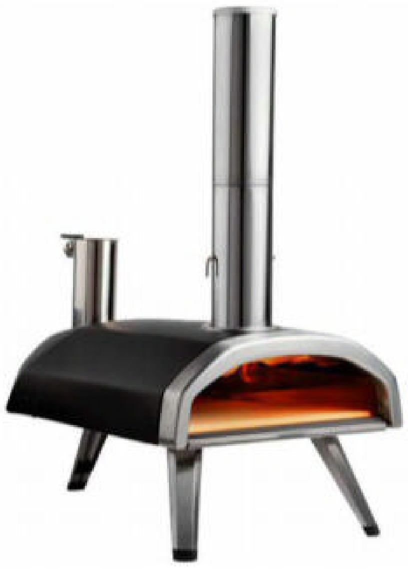
MULTI-FUNCTIONAL
Fontana Forno Outdoor Oven,
£2,499, Fontana Forno,
0333 090 5560, firesmoke.co.uk



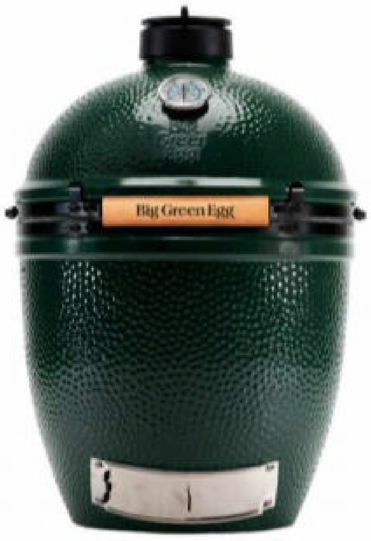
PORTABLE
Aquaforno II, black,
£395, Aquaforno,
0118 930 4977, aquaforno.com



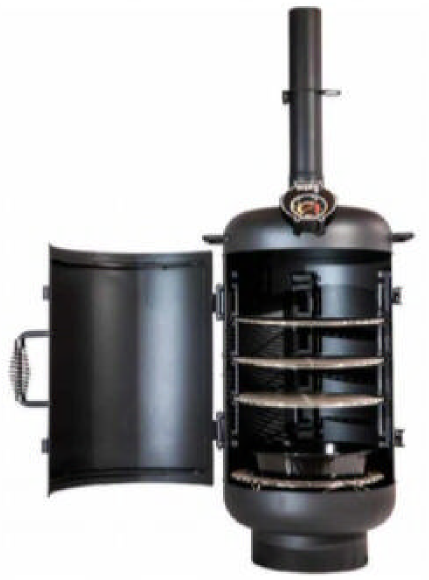
INDUSTRIAL
Alfa Forni 4 Pizze, copper
£3,820, Grenadier
01829 741649, grenadier.co.uk



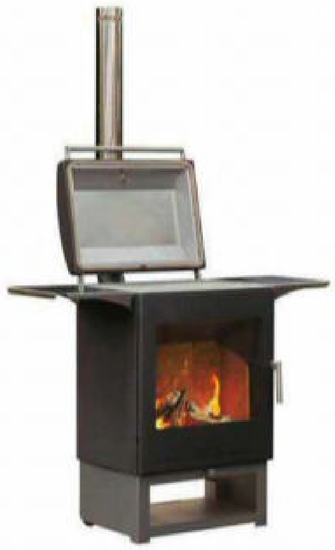
COMPACT
Ooni Fyra 12 Wood Pellet Pizza Oven,
£249, Ooni,
uk.ooni.com



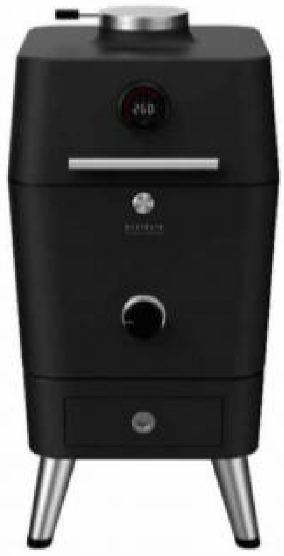
COOL CLASSIC
Large Big Green Egg,
£1,175, Big Green Egg,
01962 793800, biggreenegg.co.uk



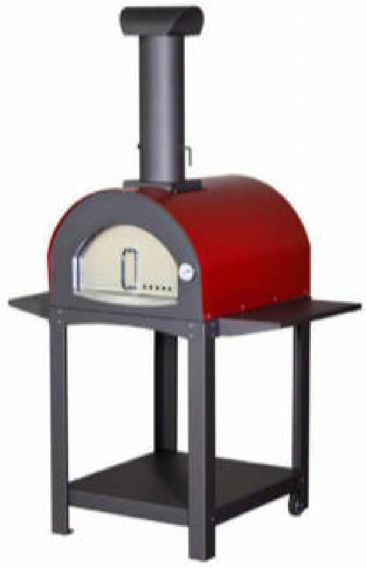
TIERED SMOKER
Ozpig Oven Smoker,
from £225, Ozpig,
ozpig.co.uk



VERSATILE
Chesneys Heat and Grill,
£1,948.99, firehouse-uk,
01539 766888, firehouse-uk.com



MODERN DESIGN
Everdure by Heston Blumenthal 4K, graphite,
£1,799, BBQ World
01200 421010, bbqworld.co.uk



PERFECT FOR PIZZA
ACR Vita Wood Fired Pizza Oven, rosso,
£780, Flames
0161 654 1610, flames.co.uk

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(2 days a week (Wed & Thu), 10.30am–3.15pm, plus 2 days homework)

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Garden of Medicinal Plants – Chelsea Physic Garden Photo: R Alexander

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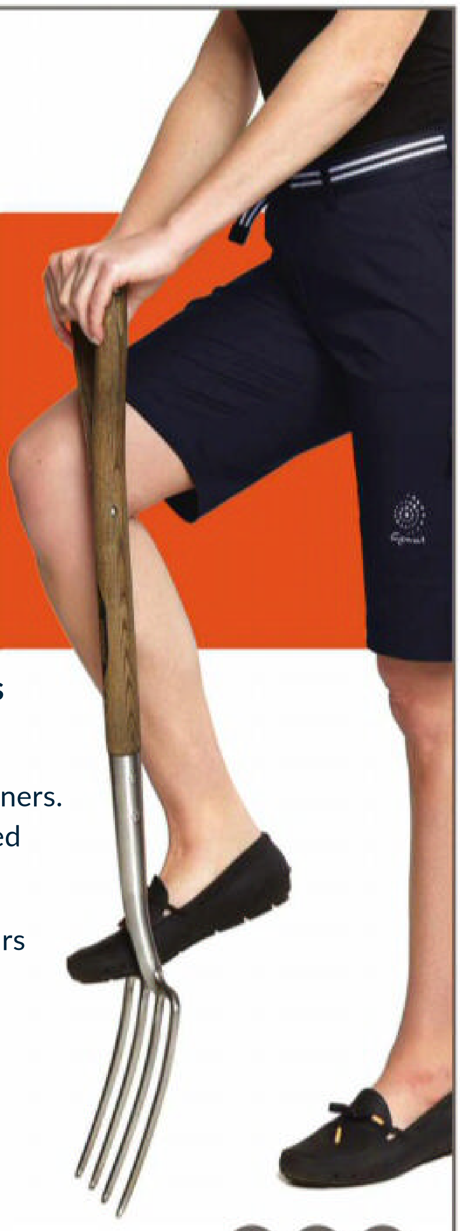

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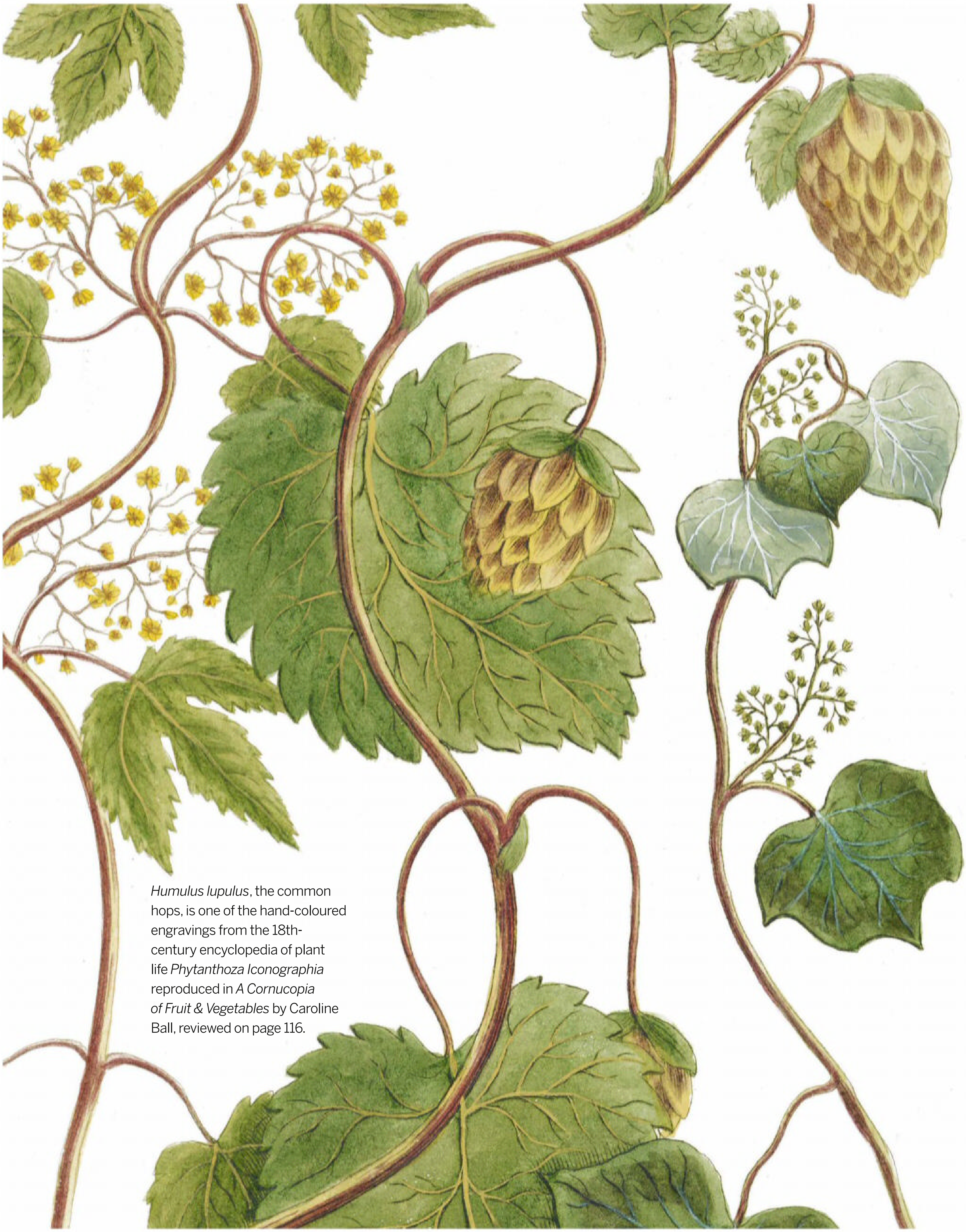
DOWNTOOLS

Book reviews, crossword, back issues, a weekend in…



Humulus lupulus, the common hops, is one of the hand-coloured engravings from the 18th-century encyclopedia of plant life *Phytanthoza Iconographia* reproduced in *A Cornucopia of Fruit & Vegetables* by Caroline Ball, reviewed on page 116.

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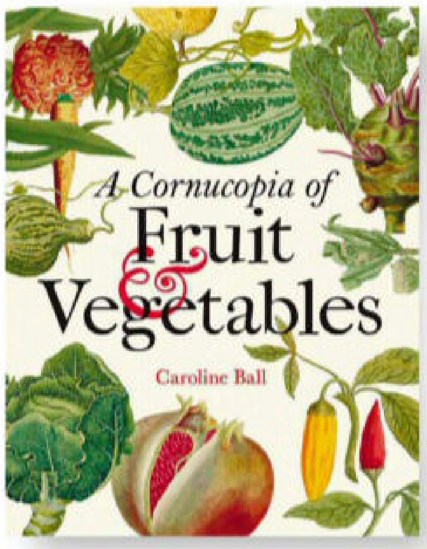


A CORNUCOPIA OF FRUIT & VEGETABLES

by Caroline Ball

Bodleian Library, £15
ISBN 978-1851245666

Delve into the fascinating, pictorial world of 18th-century edible produce with this colourful compendium of botanical artwork.

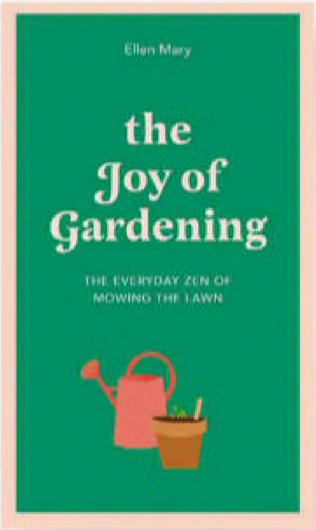
Reviewer Katy Merrington is cultural gardener at The Hepworth Wakefield.

Blushing peaches, sturdy turnips, hairy carrots and pink-veined cabbages all grace the pages of this trimly digestible picture book. Selected fruit and vegetable portraits have been chosen from the weighty volumes of the *Phytanthoza Iconographia*. This historic A to Z of plant life was published in four volumes between 1734 and 1745 by ambitious apothecary Johann Wilhelm Weinmann, who sought to portray and describe thousands of plants in a vastly encyclopaedic work.

Weinmann employed a succession of talented artists, writers and printmakers to collaborate on the project and the mezzotints and hand-coloured etchings reproduced here have a soft and faithful clarity that belie their age. Each fruit and vegetable specimen sits succinctly on its own white page, an archetype, an object separated from the conditions in which it grows, yet ripe and swollen with life.

The plant portraits are presented unnamed and severed from the Latin and German text that originally accompanied them. A key at the back of the book provides the names and you must flip back and forth in a game of identification. The illustrations therefore stand alone, serving to highlight their compositional eloquence – some like decorative motifs, with looping tendrils and meandering stems, others detailed and singular, as they capture the totality of a kohlrabi, or the life cycle of an asparagus stem.

The book begins with an introductory essay, giving the reader a useful glimpse into Weinmann's career and his mammoth undertaking of botanical study. This mini-hardback is a mere handspan across and doesn't attempt to profile the featured fruit and vegetables within the context of 18th-century culture or cuisine. Rather the book is a taster of the *Iconographia*'s celebrated artwork, and a beautiful catalogue of the colours, shapes, forms and patterns found in edible plants.



THE JOY OF GARDENING: THE EVERYDAY ZEN OF MOWING THE LAWN

by Ellen Mary

Greenfinch, £14.99
ISBN 978-1529412864

A delightful and inspiring read, perfectly suited to the beginner, that encompasses a mindfulness approach towards gardening.

Reviewer Katie Beale is editorial assistant for Gardens Illustrated.

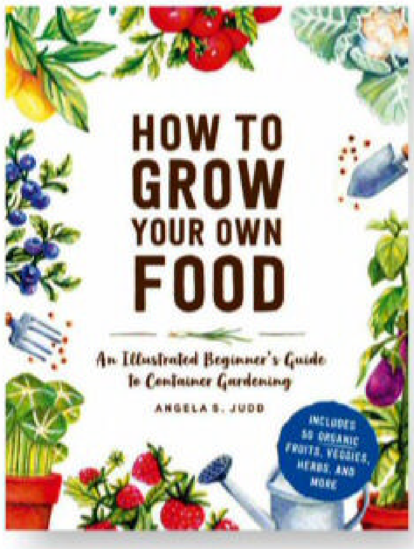
In an uplifting book aimed at the novice gardener, Ellen Mary, one half of the *The Plant Based Podcast*, sets out to explore how gardening and well-being are linked through the perspective of mindfulness. She takes on themes such as visualisation and drawing to capture an ideal garden, and the concept of a sensory garden, emphasising the importance of a connection with the senses and one's inner sense of contentment.

Mary encourages keeping a garden journal, taking photographs and enjoying the progress and fulfilment of gardening as an exercise. I enjoyed the chapter 'Sowing Seeds for Serenity', dedicated to the holistic and therapeutic process of gentle gardening, without mechanical means or pressured process. The chapter on companion planting is a handy guide on the best companion combinations, without the jargon and formality of some books. The friendly tone will appeal to a younger, novice audience, especially one with a discerning interest in, and appreciation of, the concept of well-being.

Experienced gardeners may be concerned by the subtitle *The Everyday Zen of Mowing Your Lawn* – suggesting that mowing is the way to go for an instant buzz and easy, tick-box gardening. I too approached it with caution, but was pleasantly surprised to find that the chapter on mowing your lawn does mention the subject of 'no mow' and its benefits. The simplistic approach does, however, occlude some of the more widely publicised initiatives for not mowing lawns. I would have liked more detail on the subject, but am aware that this may have been beyond the remit of the book.

The inclusion of colourful plant illustrations by Romy Palstra helps to make this a pleasant read, and an ideal gift for any budding younger gardener. The overall tone of the book – engaging and accessible – and its focus on mindfulness and appreciation, reminds us that gardening is something we should all enjoy, not just do.

BOOK REVIEWS


HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD
An Illustrated Beginner's Guide to Container Gardening
ANGELA S. JUDD
INCLUDES 50 ORGANIC FRUITS, VEGGIES, HERBS, AND MORE

HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD: AN ILLUSTRATED BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO CONTAINER GARDENING

by Angela S Judd

Adams Media Corporation, £12.99
ISBN 978-1507215722

This brightly illustrated, user-friendly guide to container growing is bound to inspire any budding edible gardener looking to grow their own crops.

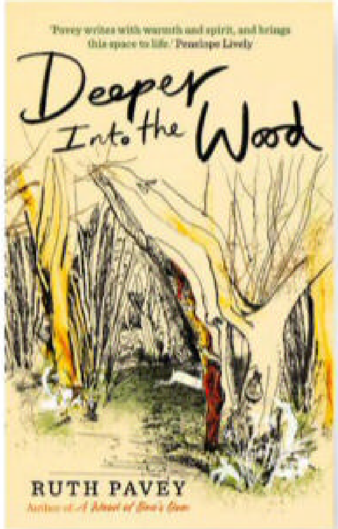
Reviewer Claire Ratinon is a writer and organic food grower.

For those who know me, it will come as no great surprise that I am over the moon to see more and more budding gardeners learning how to grow edible plants in pots. Given that container gardening makes growing easier for people with small gardens, as well as for those living in rented or temporary accommodation, and those with accessibility considerations, it's inspiring to see more books being written on the subject. Angela S Judd's *How to Grow Your Own Food* is no exception, and makes a wonderful addition to the collection.

Walking you through the how and why of container gardening in the first part of the book, Judd sets out – in an accessible and engaging manner – the parameters and principles of setting up an edible container garden. The second part of the book is dedicated to a directory of plants that grow well in pots, noting the level of difficulty for individual specimens and offering helpful tips for each. The plant list includes some exciting suggestions for plants that I've not yet tried to grow, such as ginger, turmeric and Malabar spinach, and a few that I'd thought too large to do well in pots, such as cabbage and cauliflower.

Especially helpful is the troubleshooting section at the end of the book for tackling deficiencies, pests and diseases. Knowing how to spot and deal with an issue (and what not to worry about) is often the trickiest part of developing the skills to grow food, so this user-friendly section is a worthwhile inclusion.

For such a comprehensive guide, I was surprised to see that detailed instructions for seed sowing and raising young plants are not included, as this can be where aspiring food growers can come unstuck early on. Nonetheless, *How to Grow Your Own Food* is an attractive, helpful book, bound to inspire and support hopeful edible gardeners in making the most of their sunny spaces.


'Pavey writes with warmth and spirit, and brings this space to life.' Penelope Lively
Deeper Into the Wood
RUTH PAVEY
Author of A Wood of One's Own

DEEPER INTO THE WOOD

by Ruth Pavey

Duckworth Books, £14.99
ISBN 978-0715654279

A year in the life of one woman acting as steward of a Somerset woodland and the legacy she hopes to leave behind.

Reviewer Catherine Smalley is a freelance writer and gardener.

If, like me, you dream of one day buying a patch of land to rewild, you'll enjoy Ruth Pavey's latest book. In her debut, *A Wood of One's Own*, she told the story of a four-acre scrub woodland that she has cared for over the past 20 years. Now, she reflects on its current state and what the future holds for this much-loved retreat above the Somerset Levels.

Travelling up and down from her London home, Pavey charts her interactions with the wood through the course of the seasons over one year. In warm, lyrical prose she describes the trials and tribulations of land management – grafting apple trees, tackling unruly brambles and staking out boundaries – while also delving into local history and recounting colourful encounters with various visiting experts, from a 'moth man' to an 'orchard guru'. Sketchbook-style illustrations further reveal her affection for this place.

The book's tone is unsentimental, yet the alarming decline of fauna and flora in the woodland and surrounding landscape reverberates unnervingly through its pages and becomes a recurring motif. 'One sad aspect of worrying about the state of the natural world is that everything starts to look wrong,' Pavey writes. It's there in the ash dieback, the unseasonable weather, and – importantly – the sudden disappearance of the rabbits. She worries about encroaching developers, intensive farming and who will look after her land when she's gone.

While rooted in this particular corner of the West Country, the truths that *Deeper into the Wood* tells about our rapidly changing landscapes and natural world are universal. It could make for a rather sobering, melancholy read, but Pavey's self-deprecating humour shines through and I was heartened by this tale of one woman doing her best to bravely carve out a space for wildlife, learning along the way.

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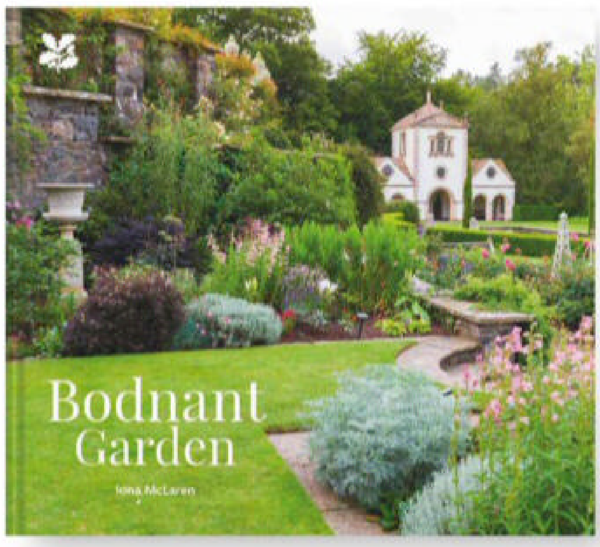
BOOK REVIEWS



BODNANT GARDEN
by Iona McLaren

Pitkin Publishing,
£16.99
ISBN 978-1841658919

A beautifully illustrated guide to the much-loved National Trust garden and the fascinating history of the remarkable family who created it.

Reviewer Juliet Giles is production editor for Gardens Illustrated.

Bodnant near Colwyn Bay in North Wales is one of the National Trust's best-loved gardens. Thousands visit each year to explore its elegant terraces with their stunning views of the Carneddau mountains and lose themselves in its beautiful woodland walks. Sometimes quite literally as the paths that stretch across the 80 acres are, according to author Iona McLaren, more numerous 'than strands of pasta in a dish of spaghetti'.

McLaren is better placed than most to guide us round Bodnant's winding paths and unravel the many strands of its history. She grew up here and her family have lived at Bodnant since her three-times great grandfather Henry Davis Pochin bought the property in 1874.

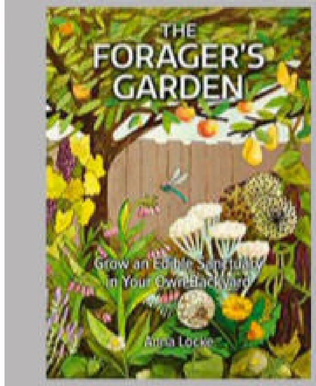
This then is the story not just of a garden but of its creators, from Pochin, the self-made businessman who laid out much of the garden, planting its famous Laburnum Arch, via the exploits of the early 20th-century plant hunters to McLaren's father and the garden's more recent revamping under the seven-year stint as head gardener of Troy Scott Smith from 2006.

But the bulk of Bodnant's story, and of this book, belongs to Pochin's grandson, Henry McLaren, 2nd Lord Aberconway, whose mother gave him 'free rein to do what he wanted with the garden' when he was barely out of his teens. It was Harry, as he was known, who crafted the garden's Italianate terraces, planted its Gravetye-inspired rose garden, introduced many of its rare plants and obsessively collected the rhododendrons for which Bodnant is famed – many hybridised by his talented head gardener Frederick Puddle. It was Harry too who as president of the RHS helped to bring Bodnant and other great gardens under the guardianship of the National Trust.

All is entertainingly told and brought to life with black-and-white family snapshots and beautiful photography of the gardens that are sure to whet the appetite of anyone yet to discover the gardens themselves.

Other books

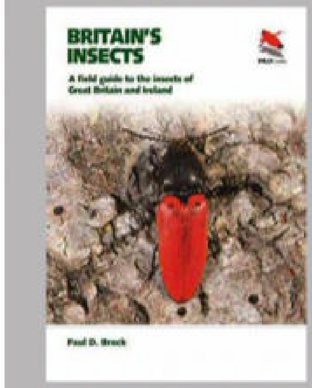
This month's additional books will get you propagating, growing inside and out, and identifying insects.



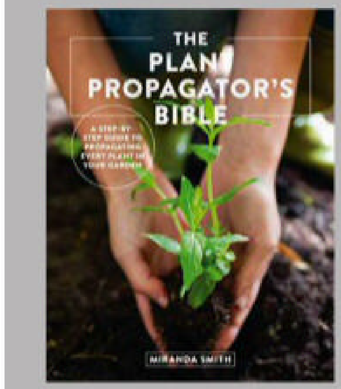
THE FORAGER'S GARDEN
by Anna Locke
Permanent Publications, £9.95,
ISBN 978-1856233071
An essential guide on how to create a thriving foraging garden that will provide pleasure throughout the year, encourage wildlife and help you reconnect with nature.

Embrace your inner PLANT LADY
EMMA BASTOW

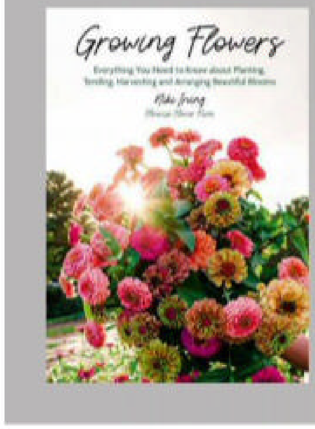
EMBRACE YOUR INNER PLANT LADY
by Emma Bastow
HarperCollins, £9.99,
ISBN 978-0008454968
A light-hearted read providing essential tips and some savvy, low-cost methods for caring for your houseplants.



BRITAIN'S INSECTS
by Paul D Brock
Princeton University Press, £25,
ISBN 978-0691179278
A comprehensive guide on Britain and Ireland's insects, with identification tools, key information and more than 2,000 beautifully shot photographs.



THE PLANT PROPAGATOR'S BIBLE
by Miranda Smith
Cool Springs Press, £12.99
ISBN 978-0760369791
Suitable for both beginners and advanced gardeners, this re-release provides detailed, step-by-step guidance on cultivating new plants.



GROWING FLOWERS
by Niki Irving
Mango Media, £26.95,
ISBN 978-1642505504
This vibrant book is aimed at the beginner and is packed full of useful tips on how to create a cutting garden and arrange the blooms that you grow.

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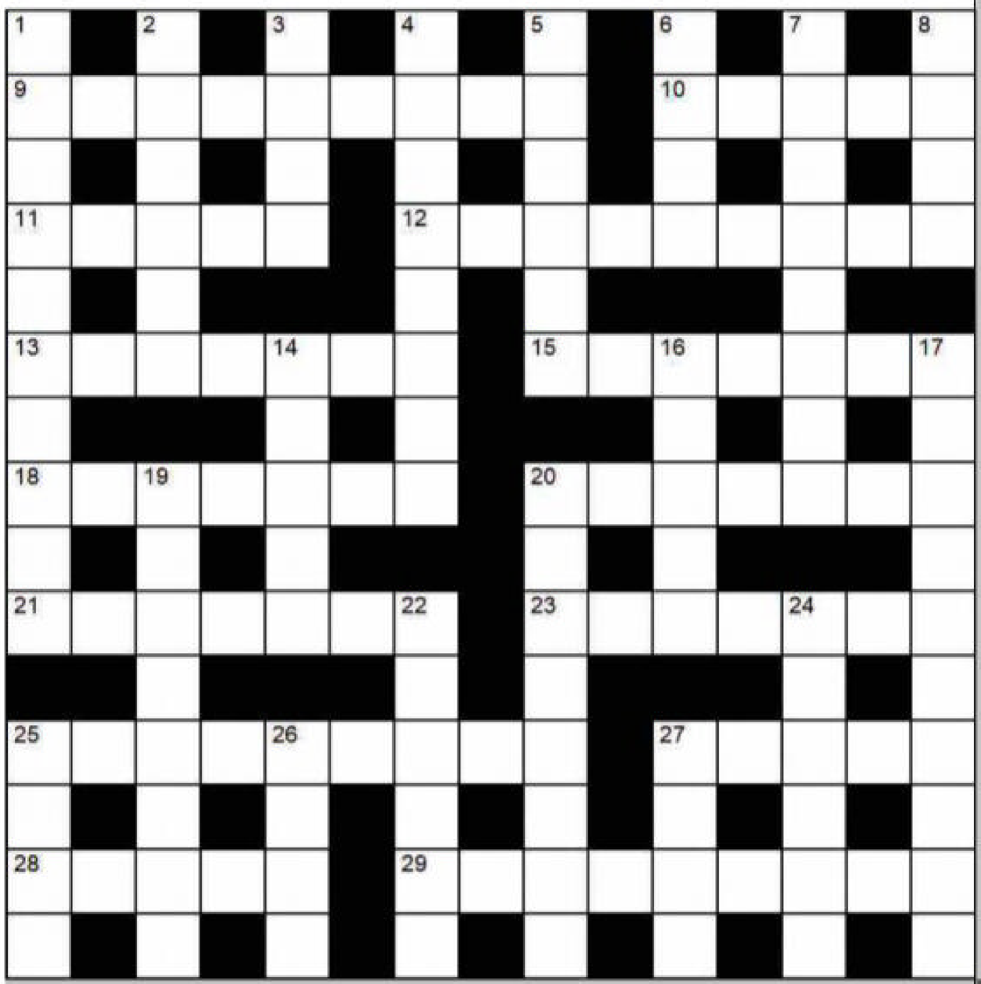

ACROSS

9 Genus of monkey puzzle tree (9)
10 Plant with button-like, yellow flowers – viola plant with a different head (5)
11 A named *Acer davidii* aka 'Mindavi'; also an adder (5)
12 Common name of *Edgeworthia chrysantha* – sort of herb 'Pupas' (9)
13 Genus of *Saxifragaceae* member, aka 'fringe cups' – all-time variety (7)
15 Eg lady's slippers and lady's tresses (7)
18 "It's part of a compound leaf" pamphlet (7)
20 Genus of 'spider orchid' – possibly as is bar (7)
21 Genus/common name of 'windflower' plant – name one differently (7)
23 A plant's primary root… that's fundamental, we hear (7)
25 Plant of *Thalictrum* genus – we, um, adore, fantastic! (6,3)
27 Flog… a catkin-bearing tree in the *Betulaceae* family (5)
28 Use eg fork to pierce lawn for aeration (5)
29 Another name for mophead hydrangea – is another, oddly! (9)

DOWN

1 Genus of 'creeping zinnia' – maybe ain't salvia! (10)
2 Flower's female organ – makes strange parcel (6)
3 Genus of Japanese maple (4)
4 An *Aechmea* bromeliad whose leaves form a 'vase' to hold rainwater (3,5)
5 A white, blotched-purple rhododendron named after a Greek lyric poet (6)
6 Another name for *Ipheion* plant is __ flower – top performer? (4)
7 Long-flowering, scabious-like plants – aka 'Tunis' variety (8)
8 This most common of elms is *Ulmus glabra* (4)
14 Cauliflower variety, can be grown as a mini-veg – 'Snow House'? (5)
16 Variety of beet with edible leaves… sounds scorched (5)
17 Britain's only native fritillary (6,4)
19 Genus of mat-forming, white-flowering plants – from Iran area, maybe (8)
20 Common name of prickly shrubs in genus *Berberis* (8)
22 Unusually hearty… taste attributed to eg beetroot (6)
24 Deep-pink colour of *Lychnis coronaria* (6)
25 This rose's fragrance comes from its stamens, not petals (4)
26 Small, juicy melon with pale-green flesh – gone off (4)
27 Pollinators found in astilbe, especially (4)

- **Solutions to this issue's crossword will be printed in the August issue**

SOLUTION TO PLANT ISSUE'S CROSSWORD

ACROSS 1 Cyathea **5** Sumac **8** Spur **9** Lupin **10** Dill **11** Statice **12** Capsid **14** Nurses **16** Rootlet **17** Topiary **19** Cleome **20** Merlot **21** Marilyn **23** Moss **25** Eruca **28** Keats **29** Dittany. **DOWN 1** Cap **2** Aurea **4** Apple **5** Senecio **6** Mud **7** Callistemon **11/26** Shuttlecock fern **13** Pulse **15** Sepal **16** Roy **18** Anthers **19** Currant **21** Mould **22** Luffa **24/3** Sea hollies **27** Ray.

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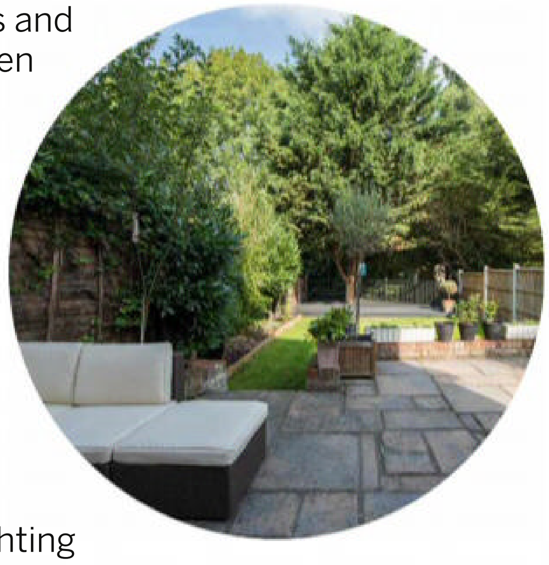

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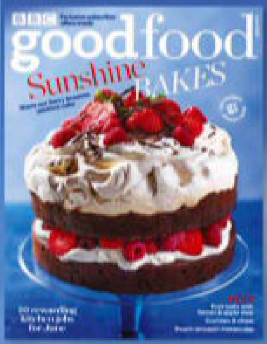
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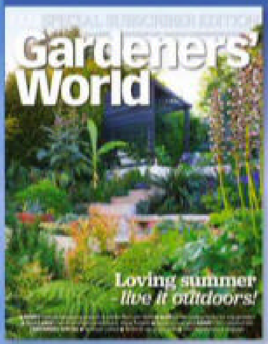
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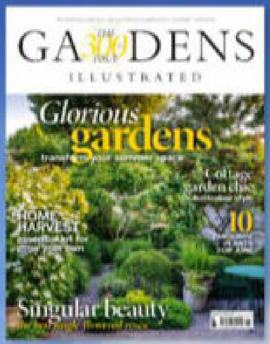
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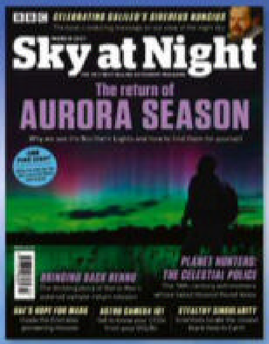
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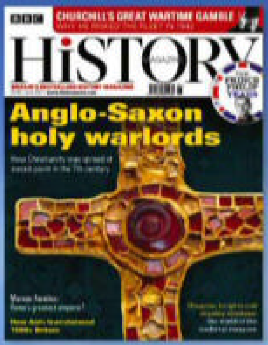
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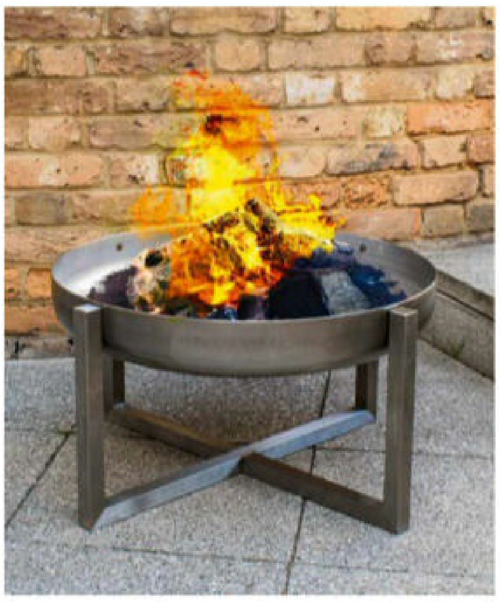

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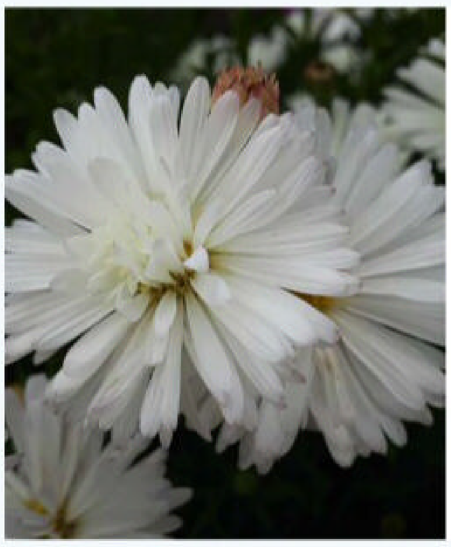

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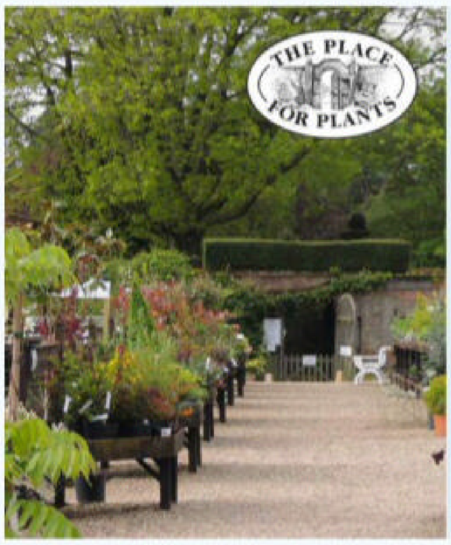

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beethamnurseries.co.uk
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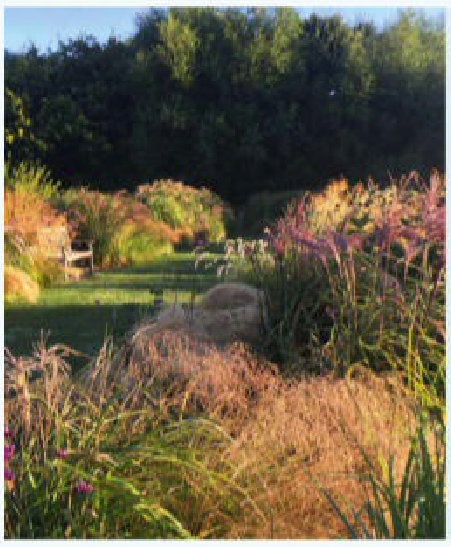

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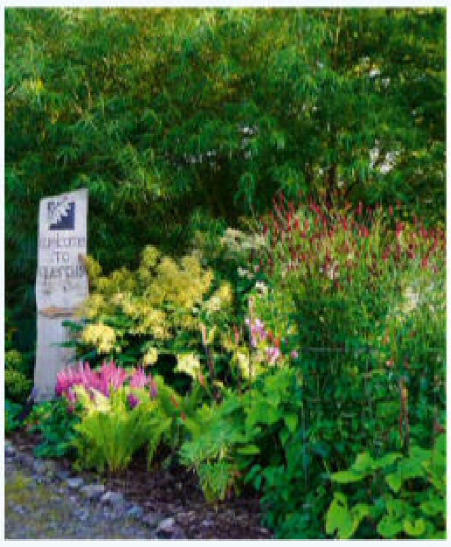

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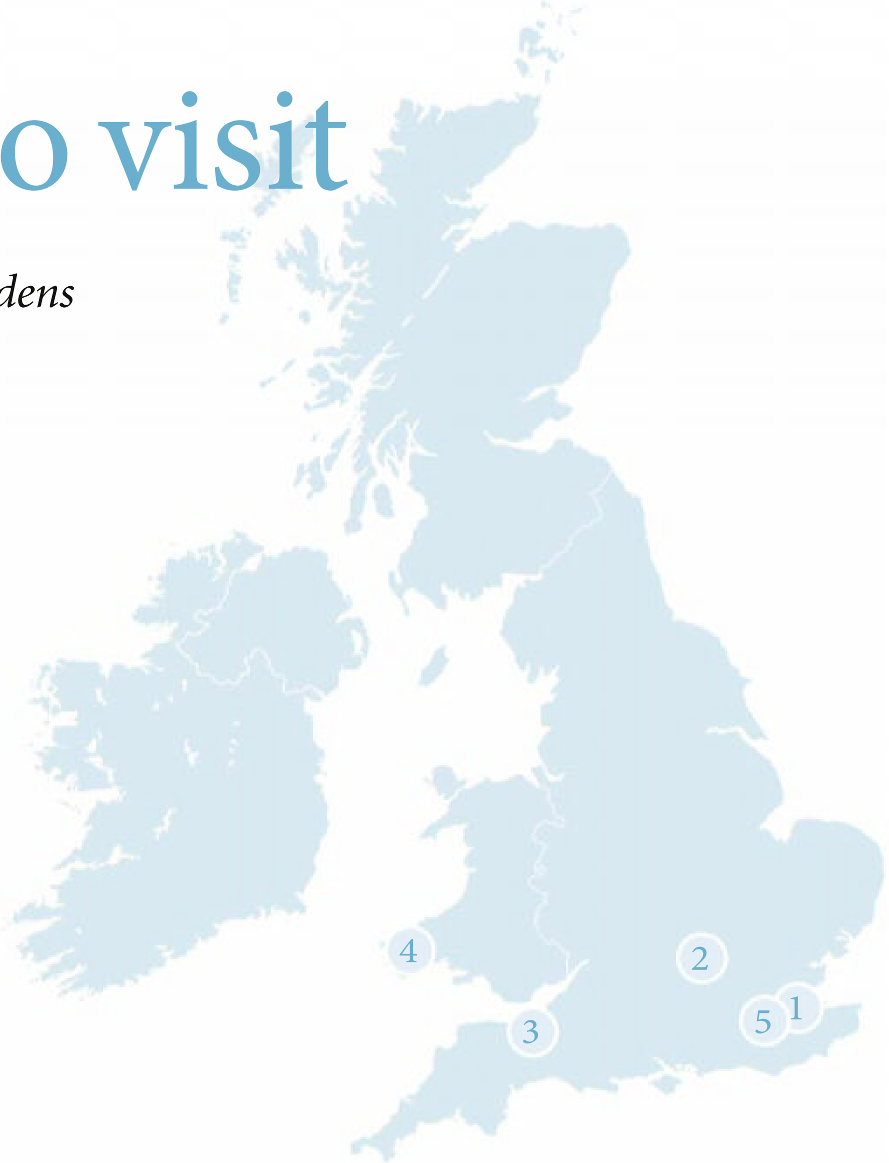
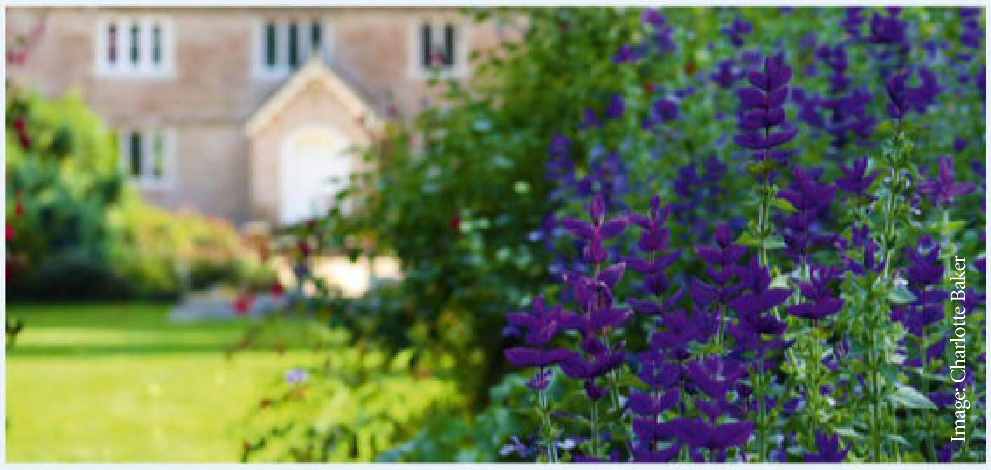
Summer gardens to visit

Summer is a great time to visit this collection of stunning gardens

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1 GREAT COMP GARDEN

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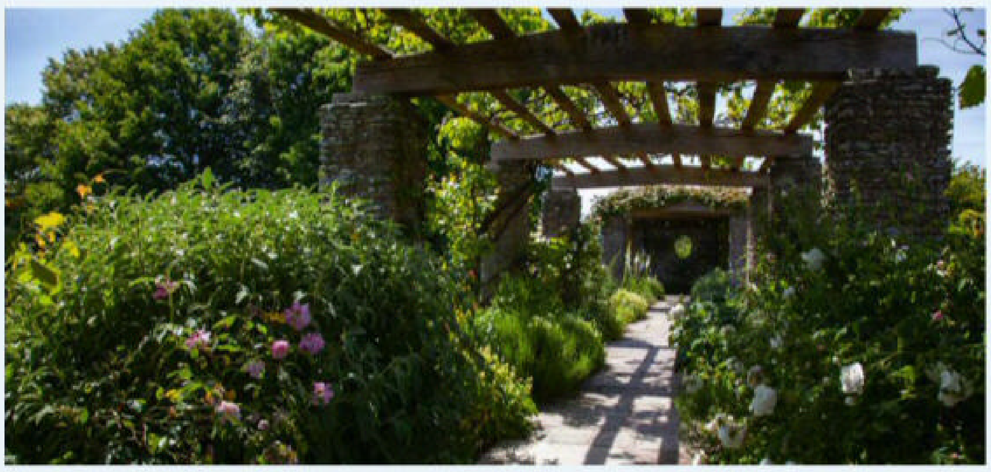
2 WATERPERRY GARDENS

With the herbaceous border in full summer colour with delphiniums, heleniums and the first asters beginning to bloom, July is a wonderful time to visit the gardens. The beautiful setting of the outdoor amphitheatre provides a wonderful and varied programme of events. Opening times: 10am to 5.30pm.

Nr Wheatley, Oxfordshire OX33 1LA | 01844 339226 | waterperrygardens.co.uk



3 HESTERCOMBE GARDENS

In the summertime, Hestercombe's 50 acres of gardens are simply delightful. Gertrude Jekyll's striking colours perfectly complement Lutyens' masterly hard landscaping. Find inner peace as you meander through the lush Georgian Landscape Garden, with magnificent 'borrowed' views from the exotic seats.

Taunton, Somerset TA2 8LQ | 01823 413923 | hestercombe.com

4 PICTON CASTLE

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The Rhos, Haverfordwest SA62 4AS | 01437 751326 | pictoncastle.co.uk

5 HEVER CASTLE & GARDENS

The roses at Hever are particularly admired, with more than 5,000 beautifully displayed bushes creating a kaleidoscope of colour and wonderfully perfumed aromas. As the days lengthen, the Mediterranean-style planting within the Pompeian Wall bursts into life.

Edenbridge, Kent TN8 7NG | 01732 865224 | hevercastle.co.uk

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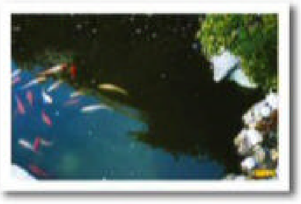

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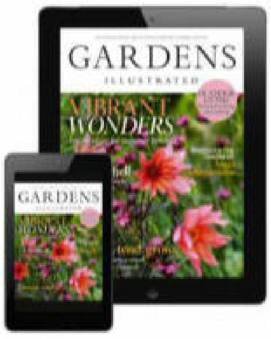
AUGUST
SMALL GARDEN ISSUE

- Jack Wallington brings Oudolf-inspired lightness and colour to a south London family garden
- Stunning flowers and foliage for late-summer impact
- The boundary between cultivation and wildness is blurred in a small London garden designed by Jenny Bloom
- A lush Los Angeles garden combines elements of Mediterranean and native planting with a dash of desert

CLAIRE TAKACS, JASON INGRAM, RICHARD BLOOM, CAITLIN ATKINSON



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How to spend a gardener's weekend in…

Denmark's islands

From historic oval allotments to woodland sanctuaries and food collectives, the Danish archipelago is a hidden world of underexplored islands, each with its own unique character

Denmark is a small country endowed with a disproportionate amount of coastline, as well as cultural influence. Among the more than 400 islands is Funen, sitting between the mainland and Zealand, which is the largest island and home to the capital Copenhagen. Choosing **Funen** or any of the islands as a base, it is easy to radiate outwards, exploring an archipelago or heading into the Baltic.

Copenhagen

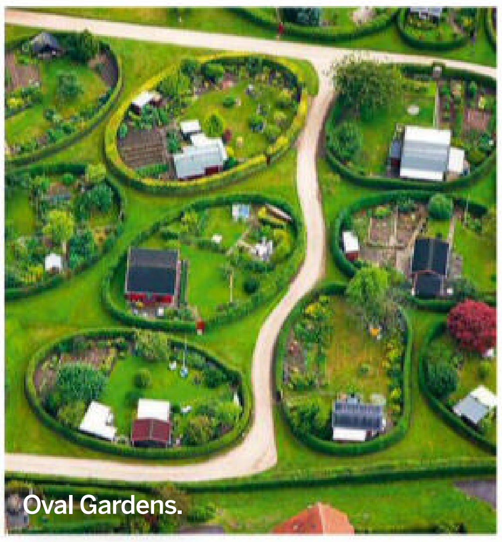
Denmark's remarkable contribution to 20th-century design is part of its allure; it is a paradise for fans of form and function. Bask in a giant showroom of vintage pieces by Verner Panton and Arne Jacobsen at **Roxy Klassik**, or, in the centre of town, **Klassik Moderne Møbelkunst**.

Tage Andersen's shop.

Regarding floral design, artist and visionary **Tage Andersen** has a retail presence nearby; it is a "must-visit shop," says Claus Dalby, himself a force of nature in the Danish flower scene. Across the canal at the historically fortified islands of **Christianshavn** (of which Claus is also a fan), the demographic is diverse, including the semi-autonomous commune of **Freetown Christiania**, founded in the 1970s, in former munitions buildings. Today Christianshavn is a hub for fine dining as well as nautical exploration of every kind, from kayaking to electric boats.

Zealand

Dragør is an ancient fishing village within easy reach of Copenhagen, either by bike or bus. The municipality of **Lyngby-Taarbæk** is a complete change of scene. The deer park and forest of **Jægersborg Dyrehave**, originally used as royal hunting grounds, are listed as an UNESCO World Heritage site. At **Nærum**, 18km north of the city, the **Oval Gardens** were designed in the middle of the 20th century by the giant of Danish landscaping, **Carl Theodor Sørensen**. The word 'allotment' does not do justice to the unique design; each garden and cottage is set in an ellipse marked with clipped hedges and separated by neat lawns, with no vehicular access. Further up the coast (10km) **Rungstedlund** is a landscape of meadows, ponds, orchard and woodland: a sanctuary for migrating birds. It is also the museum and former home of author **Karen Blixen**.


Oval Gardens.

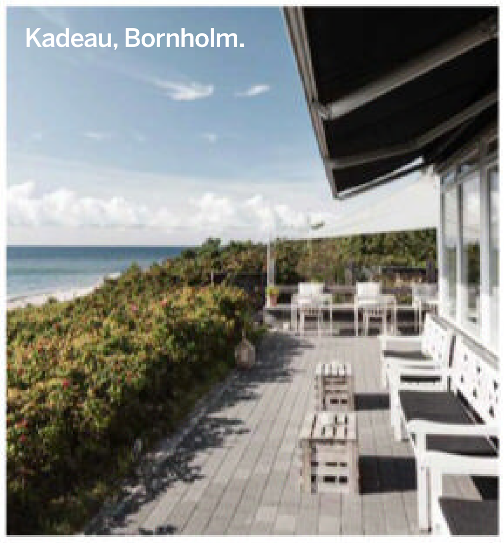
Funen

Across a very long bridge from Zealand, on the way to **Odense** (Funen's main city), the **Romantic Garden Sanderumgaard** is a 300-year-old designed landscape, open for walks and picnics. On the coast, further north, the home of artists **Johannes and Alhed Larsen** has been maintained as a furnished museum and garden, filled with the flowers that they liked to paint, as members of the **Funen Artists** in the early 20th century. **Egeskov** is a fairytale moated castle, not far from the birthplace of **Hans Christian Andersen**. The South Funen Archipelago consists of scores of islands and islets, many of which are reachable by canoe, and some by tractor, depending on the tide. Leave from historic **Svendborg** or, further west, lovely Faaborg. From here, the island of **Helnæs** boasts "very beautiful nature", in the words of Funen photographer Mette Krull.

Home of the early 20th-century artists Johannes and Alhed Larsen.

Bornholm

The Danish island of **Bornholm** faces Sweden to the north, and Poland to the south. The island is a food-lover's hot spot and the birthplace of **Kadeau**, anointed with Michelin stars both here and at the urban outpost in Copenhagen. Head chef and co-owner Nicolai Nørregaard is Bornholm born and bred. He has spoken of the terroir of this place in the middle of the Baltic, where crops are bountiful at the end of summer – bringing a frenzy of pickling and preserving, in preparation for the long winter. **Gaarden** is a food collective, where people can eat, buy and learn about food. **Green Solution House in Ronne** is a Danish classic: a beautifully designed, waste-free hotel, shaped like a giant paper fan.


Kadeau, Bornholm.

Souvenirs

Best lunch in a garden Amass, Refshalevej, Copenhagen
Best dinner in a greenhouse Vækst, Latin Quarter, Copenhagen
Best groceries Torvehallerne market place, Frederiksberg, Copenhagen
Best pick-me-up Aquavit at Barr, Christianshavn, Copenhagen
Best browse Tage Andersen, Copenhagen

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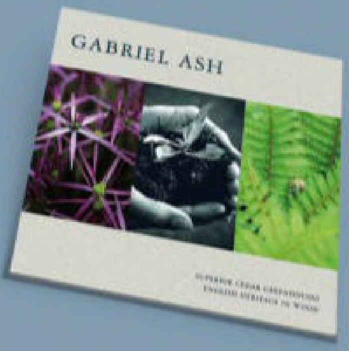

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